



THE BANGLADESH TODAY

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MONDAY

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REGIONAL

Most CMs favour restructuring of Planning Commission, no consensus on disbanding it

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ENTERTAINMENT

Pneumonia-struck Dilip Kumar 'fine now'

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SPORT

Bangladesh emerge unbeaten champion in AHF Cup hockey

>Page 9



ROAD TO VICTORY

Indian army calls upon Pakistan army to surrender

DHAKA : "Aplok chari tara se ghirey huey hai. Aplok hatiar dal dey."

"You are surrounded on all sides. You are kindly requested to lay down your arms," General S A M Manekshaw, chief of general staff of the Indian army, appealed to all Pakistani forces stationed in "Occupied Bangladesh" on the morning of December 8, 1971, reports BSS

The appeal was repeated several times over radio as leaflets descended on Dhaka like confetti, saying the same. As the Mukti Bahini stepped up its operations in and around Dhaka, the Mitra Bahini also converged on the city. Air strikes continued throughout the day and night. Often at night, the objective was purely psychological - to keep the Pakistan army on tenterhooks.

In other theaters of the war, the Mitra Bahini continued to liberate new areas, particularly towns.

Brahmanbaria was freed on this day as the Pakistani army retreated without a fight.

> (Contd. on page-11)

Noted actor Khalil dies at 80

DHAKA : Renowned actor Khalil Ullah Khan Khalil died of cardiac arrest at Square Hospital in the city on Sunday morning. He was 80, reports UNB.

Khalil, a popular actor in television drama, theatre and cinema, breathed



his last around 11:10am.

Sources at the hospital said life time award winning actor Khalil had been admitted there on December 2.

He was born on January 1, 1934.

Beginning his acting career as a theatre activist, Khalil made his debut in Zahir Raihan's film 'Sonar Tara'.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has expressed her deep shock at the death of reputed actor Khalil.



Namaz Timings

Today

	Start	Jamaat
Fajr	05:11 AM	05:45 AM
Zohr	11:54 PM	01:15 PM
Asr	03:35 PM	04:15 PM
Magrib	05:15 PM	05:15 PM
Esha	06:33 PM	07:30 PM

Tahajjud After midnight

Source: Islamic Foundation

SUNSET : 05:12 PM
SUNRISE : 06:29 AM



Bangladesh Navy's Ship 'Somudro Joy' in an urgency left for Maldives carrying 1 lack liter fresh water and five portable desalination plant, after their water distillation plant was damaged by tragic fire-breakout and the event was announced as a national disaster situation.

Photo: Banglar Chokh

UGC committee formed to bring govt univ colleges under public varsities

DHAKA : The University Grants Commission (UGC) on Sunday formed an eight-member committee to finalise the process of bringing government university colleges under the control of public universities, reports UNB.

The eight-member committee, headed by UGC member Prof Dr Mohammad Mohabbat Khan, was formed following an urgent meeting at the UGC Bhaban. Chaired by UGC chairman Prof Dr AK Azad Chowdhury, the meeting was attended by Vice Chancellors of public universities.

The other members of the committee are UGC member Prof Abul Hashem, Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique, Jahangirnagar University Vice Chancellor Prof Farzana Islam, Rajshahi University Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Muhammad Mizanuddin, Chittagong University Vice Chancellor Prof Anwarul Azim Arif, UGC Secretary Dr Md Khaled and UGC Additional Director (Public University Division) Ferdous Zaman. Prof Mohabbat Khan will act as convener of the committee, while Ferdous Zaman as member secretary.

The committee will finalise the

process of bringing as many as 181 government university colleges regulated by the National University under the affiliation of public universities.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina during her visit to the Education Ministry on August 31 last gave directives to bring the colleges having honours and master degree courses under the affiliation of public universities for improving the quality of education and reducing session jam at the National University.

As per the PM's directives, the UGC arranged the urgent meeting.

Speaking at the meeting, the vice chancellors of public universities supported in principle the Prime Minister's directives. They emphasised increasing manpower and expansion of infrastructures of the public universities to implement the decision.

Some vice chancellors suggested separate syllabuses and curricula for the colleges in case of affiliation to the public universities to avoid chaotic situation in academic activities on the main campuses of the universities.

UGC chairman Prof AK Azad Chowdhury said the Prime Minister properly realised to improve the quality

of education. "We're not in favour of the National University. We want to strengthen it brining some colleges under public universities," he said.

Prof Azad said once 260-280 colleges had been affiliated to Dhaka University, now no more than 10/12 colleges will be made affiliated to any public university.

DU Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique said bringing the colleges under the public universities has become an urgent need. "These days, classes at the colleges are not held regularly. Students become dependent on coaching from intermediate level. So, a harsh decision will have to be taken to save the education," he said.

Welcoming the PM's directives, NU Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Harun-or Rashid said they identified that the NU has been facing two serious problems -- session jam and lack of quality education -- for the last 22 years.

He, however, has taken a number of initiatives, including opening six regional centres, introducing online system, updating syllabuses and preparing academic calendar, to address the two key problems in 20 months after taking over the charge of the National University.

20-party threatens non-stop agitation if energy prices hiked

DHAKA : The BNP-led 20-party alliance on Sunday threatened to announce non-stop protest programmes if gas and power tariffs are hiked as per the government's move, reports UNB.

"Non-stop programmes will be thrown from the day the prices of power and gas will be raised," said BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir.

He issued the threat at a press briefing after a secretary general-level meeting of the 20-party alliance at BNP's Nayapaltan central office.

Fakhru, however, did not explain the nature of the programmes, saying it will be informed later.

Mentioning that the 20-party is against the government's decision of increasing gas and power tariffs, he demanded the government shelve its plan.

The BNP leader said the government is increasing the gas and power tariffs in phases to plunder public money and indulge in corruption. "We came to know from the media reports the government is going to hike the tariffs of power and gas from January 1 next. We think such a decision was taken only to loot public money."

The 20-party alleged the country's farmers have been hit hard due to the

government's wrong decision of importing rice and maize despite bountiful production of the food items in the country.

Referring to media reports, the alliance said huge amount of rice is being imported from India as the government has withdrawn duty on import of the main food, depriving local farmers of fair price of their paddy.

Fakhru said the government has taken a contradictory policy of exporting rice only to say they have achieved food autarky while the rice is being imported from the neighbouring country. "It's nothing but an imprudent decision."

He urged the government to stop importing rice from India and decrease the prices of agricultural inputs so that farmers can get fair prices of their produces.

The BNP acting secretary general said the 20-party feared that the way Prime Minister at her Friday's press conference talked about US it may hurt Bangladesh's diplomatic ties with the country. "The meeting condemned Prime Minister's comments."

He also said the Prime Minister made indecent and indecorous comments about the BNP chairperson that may cast a negative impact on the Bangladesh' political cultural.

Muggers snatch Tk 1.09 crore in city; 3 hurt

DHAKA : Muggers allegedly snatched Tk 1,09,80,000 cash in three separate incidents in the city, leaving three people injured on Sunday, reports UNB.

The first incident took place at Rupnagar in Mirpur around 5am when Abdul Aziz, 30, a rickshaw puller and a resident of the area, was returning to his residence from Sayedabad Bus Stand on a CNG-autorickshaw.

A group of muggers, numbering three, intercepted him near his residence, stabbed him indiscriminately and snatched Tk 80,000 from him.

Later, he was taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Aziz brought the money from his village home in Bagerhat to migrate to a foreign country for work, his wife Rabeya told reporters at DMCH.

In another incident, a group of muggers snatched Tk 90 lakh from BKash employees from a car after shooting its driver near Proshika Bhaban in Rupnagar area around 10:30am.

The driver of the car was shot in the leg, and was taken to National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopaedic Rehabilitation (NITOR). Confirming the incident, Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) assistant commissioner (Pallabi Zone) Mohammad Kamal Hossain told reporters that the incident seems 'mysterious', and the investigation is on to find out whether it was a staged incident or not.

Stay alert against RMG sector conspirators: PM

DHAKA : Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Sunday asked all concerned, including the owners of garment factories and consumers, workers and foreign buyers, to remain alert against conspirators, both at home and abroad, trying to destroy the country's highly potential RMG sector, reports UNB.

"Bangladesh is the world's second largest RMG exporters. Several quarters, perhaps, do not like this... so they're engaged in conspiracies against this sector. I'm urging the owners, workers, foreign buyers and consumers to stay alert against local as well as foreign conspirators," she said.

The Prime Minister was inaugurating the first-ever 'Dhaka Apparel Summit-2014', organised by Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre (BICC) in the city.

The three-day 'Dhaka Apparel Summit' will showcase Bangladesh's progress in the vital readymade garment sector and work out a plan to reach US\$ 50-billion export landmark by 2021, the golden jubilee of the country's independence. The Prime Minister also inaugurated the 'Centre of Excellence for Bangladesh Apparel Industry and International Trade Expo for Building and Fire Safety 2014'.

Hasina said if any problem arises, the government has the ability to tackle it. "But make sure that other quarters cannot conspire against our industries. I'm urging all, especially the owners and workers, to remain vigilant in this regard."

BGMEA is hosting the event, replacing its annual show, BATEXPO, which is expected to help Bangladesh send out an impressive message to its partners in the global apparel market.

Court rejects Latif's bail petition

DHAKA : A court here on Sunday rejected a bail petition of sacked minister Abdul Latif Siddique in a case filed for his disparaging remarks on Hajj and Tablig Jamaat, reports UNB.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Asaduzzaman Noor passed the order after a hearing on the bail petition placed by Latif Siddique's lawyer Barrister Jyotirmoy Barua.

The court also rescheduled the date for framing the charge in the case from today (Sunday) to March 15 as police could not produce the accused during the day's hearing due to his illness.

Latif Siddique was taken to the Prison Cell of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) Hospital from Dhaka Central Jail after he fell sick in the jail on Saturday.

Latif Siddique was shown arrested by the police on November 25 in one of the seven cases filed against him in Dhaka for his disparaging remarks on Hajj and Tablig Jamaat.



The case was filed with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's court by Advocate ANM Abed Raja, former president of Dhaka Metropolitan Bar Association. Latif Siddique was sent to jail by Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Atiqur Rahman when police produced him before the court following his surrender at the Dhanmondi Police Station on November 25. Later, Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Bikash Kumar Sarker transferred the case to the court of Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Asaduzzaman Noor.

Sagar-Runi murder: HC bail to Tanvir prevails for SC's no order

DHAKA : The Appellate Division on Sunday turned a blind eye to a state plea seeking stay on the High Court's interim order that had granted bail to Tanvir Rahman, a killer suspect now in custody, in the journalist couple Sagar Sarwar-Meherun Runi murder case, reports UNB.

Chamber Judge of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court Justice Hasan Foez Siddique passed 'no order' upon a petition moved by the state.

Responding to a petition, an HC division bench on December 2 granted an interim bail to detained Tanvir

till submission of the police report over the case.

After the High Court interim order, the state filed a petition with the SC seeking stay on the HC bail order.

Fawzia Karim, the counsel for Tanvir, told reporters that after the day's SC stand there is no bar to her client's release from custody.

Sagar Sarwar, news editor at private TV channel Maasranga, and his wife Meherun Runi, a senior reporter at another TV channel, ATN Bangla, were killed in the small hours on February 11, 2012 at their rented apartment in the capital's West Rajabazar.



Five bogies along with the engine of a Dhaka bound train of Rajshahi Express arriving from Ishurdi got derailed near Bangabandhu Bridge on Sunday at around 8 am.

Photo: Banglar Chokh



BGB troops handed over the arrestee to Benapole Port Police Station. A case was filed.

The market, however, ended the week's first

The number of advancing issues, however, was higher than losing ones though most of the major sectors closed in red. Among the day's 299 issues traded,

All the DSE indices finished near flat last week as the market were mixed during the last trading session of the week on Thursday.

The workshop will be held at the NEC conference room in city's Sher-e-Bangla Nagar area at 3:00 pm. Planning Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal will be present at the workshop as the chief guest while Bangladesh Bank Governor Dr. Atiur Rahman as special guest.

The minister said Bangladesh won membership in the IMSO in 1993.

Prof Jamilur Reza Chowdhury, another prominent urban planner and vice chancellor of the University of Asia Pacific, said the hawkers and small traders who grab the city walkways to do business must be brought to justice aiming to make

On February 26, 2012, the High Court asked the authorities concerned to take effective steps to make the city footpaths clear evicting hawkers and vendors so that pedestrians can walk through footpaths without facing any obstacle.

The urban planner stressed installing green signaling system and zebra crossing in all intersections of the capital so that people can pass through the zebra crossings safely. "The city over-bridges and underpasses must keep free from hawkers, vendors and advertisements," he added.

Experts said the coastal aquifer of Bangladesh is at stake now due to its geographical location and global climate change impacts, while the livelihood of 400 million people living in coastal region is under threat due to increasing trend of salinity intrusion into the coastal aquifer.

"It'll be a great achievement if we can manage sweet water for coastal people through conducting a research," he said. Chaired by chief engineer of Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE) Khaleda Ahsan, the workshop was addressed, among others, by Local Government Division senior secretary Monzur Hossain, project director of Policy Support Unit (LGD) kazi Abdur Noor and Buet professor Dr M Habibur Rahman.

আমার পিতার (মৃত মোঃ মুসা)
সম্বলপত্র বহি রেজি. নং-৪৮/১১,
সম্বলপত্র নং-গ-০৪৫২৫৪২ তাং ২৫-
১০-২০১৪, মূল্য : পাঁচ লক্ষ টাকা।
মাগুরা সদর থানা জিডি নং-১২৯২
তাং-২৬-১০-২০১৪
মাসুমা পারভীন, পিতা : মৃত মোঃ
মুসা, গ্রাম+ডাকঘর : রাধানগর,
উপজেলা : শ্রীপুর, জেলা : মাগুরা।

GD-1741/14 (8x3)

GD-1739/14 (8x3)



Leather bags made by autistic and disabled in Feni are being exported to America, Japan.

Distressed families get help in Chapainawabgonj

RAJSHAHI : More than 50 poor and distressed households, who were affected by flood and river erosion, received goat, sheep and wheat seeds for improving their living and livelihood condition in Char Narayanpur area under Sadar Upazila of Chapainawabgonj district yesterday, reports BSS.

Many other families who were earlier given same inputs get one kid each. Besides, 200 cattle and goats were vaccinated on the occasion.

Agriculture Sustainable and Socio-Economic Development Organization (ASSED) under its Nodi O Jibon (River and Life) project took the initiative and organized the distribution programme in Char Narayanpur Union Parishad Hall room. With financial support from Concern Worldwide, Bangladesh and Irish Aid, the ASSED has been implementing the project to ensure food security of around 3,144 extreme poor households of 15,720 populations in 36 villages under Char Narayanpur and Char Alatul Union Parishads.

Main thrust of the five-year programme is to ensure food security of the extreme poor community through involving them in diversified productive and income generating activities. Deputy Commissioner Jahangir Kabir attended and addressed the programme as chief guest with UP Chairman Alamgir Kabir in the chair. ASSED Executive Director Agriculturist Rabiul Alam, Project Coordinator Rubel Talukder, Upazila Animal Resource Officer Saiful Islam and BRDB local unit president Shahjahan Ali also spoke.

Chief Guest said both number of beneficiaries and donations and other allowances of the safety net programmes in char areas should be enhanced for welfare of the hard- to-reach people.

More other NGOs, who are working in the field of improving living and livelihood condition of the poor particularly women and children, should expand their rehabilitation activities in the char area.

DC Jahangir Kabir added that the

present government has been implementing various safety net programmes for bringing out the distressed people from the vicious circle of poverty.

He urged the officials concerned to bring more char dwellers under the anti-poverty interventions so that they can derive total benefits of the programmes.

Rabiul Alam told the discussion that the Nadi O Jibon (River and Life) project is being implemented to make the ultra- poor char (shoal) people income- generators.

The project has provision to reduce the erosion of assets and income especially homesteads houses, standing crops, livestock, trees, utensils and furniture.

Upon successful implementation of the project by June 2016, acreage of homestead gardening coupled with the number of gardeners will be enhanced. As a whole, livelihood condition of the targeted people will be elevated side by side with qualitative change in farming activities and production.

Road crash kills one in Feni

Muhibullah Forhad
Feni Correspondent

A truck driver was killed and two of his associates severely injured when a truck made a collision with tree after loosing its control at the Devipur area of Feni district.

The deceased was identified as Md Sajib (24). The incident occurred at Sunday morning, In-Charge of Mohipal highway police, Fari Saleh Ahmed informed that a salt laden truck was heading to Dhaka from Chittagong. On Sunday morning, the truck lost its control and hit a roadside tree. The driver died on the spot and another two of his associates identified as Abdul Momen (28) and Jamal Uddin (26) were injured severely. Later they were admitted in the Feni Sadar hospital.

Kazi Leather Products in Feni ran by handicapped craftsmen

Md. Muhibullah Forhad

Kazi Leather Products and Training Center in Daulatpur village of Fulgazi, Feni are making different varieties of bags and related products which are being exported in many different countries and most of the craftsmen who make these products are patients facing Down syndrome or disabled. The owner of the factory Kazi Jamal Uddin along with his wife Suraiya Aktar manages the company themselves.

Located 8 Km north of Bondhua-Daulatpur near the Bondhua Bridge lays Kazi's house and within that premises the factory started its journey at around the year 2000. Coming from a sate when most of its activities took place in Kazi's living-room, now it went past the borders and it's earning goodwill around the world along with huge amount of foreign currency. Anyone who visits this factory is either amazed or inspired by witnessing its progress and achievements. The disabled and autistic people, who are considered a burden to the society are working as the main work force in this factory and also making enough money to provide for their family. Kazi Jamal Uddin, who started Kazi Leather

products, when asked about his success story he said the main reason behind starting this company was to develop the work force among village people and to pursue the city based factories to build industrial product factories in villages to improve the lives of people. In his factory, misfortunate, disabled, autistic and even blind people are recruited and trained to work so that they don't have to rely on others, become self sufficient.

Many trainees from the factory even started small businesses by themselves whose products are being marketed in many places throughout the country.

Moreover, the factory itself is earning much goodwill around the world, according to Kazi camera bags made by factory are being exported to America, money bags to Japan, Umbrella bags to London and school bags to Africa. And with this huge flow of foreign currencies Kazi is donating most of it in social works; he even established a social organization by his name to support poverty stricken people and help them to get back at their feet. He also manages an organization concerning the welfare of children living around city railway stations.



Local MP Samsul Alom Dudu and Rural Electricity committee GM Abdul Kuddus leading an imaginative rally in observance of the National Electricity week-2014 in Joypurhat.

National Power Week observed across the country

District Correspondents

district PDB office by releasing balloons.

National Power Week was observed in different districts across the country. Our Joypurhat Correspondent Masrakul Alom reports informed that Joypurhat Palli Biddut Samity brought out a rally from the Shaheed Dr Abul Kashem Maidan and paraded the important roads of the town.

At the end of the rally, a discussion meeting was held at the Palli Biddut head quarter where parliament member of Joypurhat-1 Shamsul Alam Dudu deliver the speech as chief guest while the special guest was District Administrator Solaiman Ali. General Manager of the Samity Eng Abdul Quddus, Board Secretary Dr Khaza Golam Rasul and Director Amanullah spoke on the occasion.

Tangail Correspondent Nasir Uddin reported, a rally and a discussion meeting that were held under the initiative of District Power Development Board. Sanower Hossain MP inaugurated the program at the

Later a rally was taken out which paraded the important roads of the town. Before the rally, a brief discussion meeting was held on the occasion. Sanower Hossain MP spoke as chief guest there while Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) Saleh Mohammad Mohiuddin Khan gave a speech as special guest. Moreover sadar upazila chairman advocate Khorshed Alom and Tangail Press Club president advocate Ataur Rahman Azad delivered their speeches.

A similar programme was held in Bagerhat. Bagerhat Correspondent Nihar Ranjan Saha informed that a colorful rally paraded the main road of Bagerhat town. Deputy Commissioner of the district Md. Shukur Ali, president of Biddut Sramik Union Md Taleb Hossain and many other attended in the rally.

Our Panchagarh correspondent reported that Pally Biddut organised programmes including a rally and a discussion.

Indian High Commission distributes winter clothes among Indian detainees

Nihar Ranjan Shaha
Bagerhat Correspondent

Indian High Commission on Sunday distributed winter clothes among the 131 detainees in Bagerhat. APS of Indian High Commissioner APJ Miraj Kumar handed over one hundred thirty one worm clothes (Shals) to Bagerhat Deputy Commissioner Md. Shukur Ali on Sunday morning. Later Miraj Kumar went to the jail to visit the detainees. All of the detainees were arrested when they intruded illegally in the Bangladesh area fishing at the different times.



In observance of Magura's Free Day the freedom fighter community of the area brought out an imaginative rally.

RCC Mayor for adequate sanitation facilities

RANGPUR : Mayor of Rangpur City Corporation (RCC) and valiant freedom fighter Alhaj Sarfuddin Ahmed Jhantu stressed the need for ensuring adequate sanitation facilities for the common people in Rangpur city, reports BSS.

He said this while inaugurating the construction work of a public toilet near Lucky Mosque in the city Sunday as the chief guest. RCC Councillor Mahbubur Rahman Manju (Ward No-21) presided over the ceremony participated by the people from all walks of life. Valiant freedom fighter Mohammad Jahangir and RCC Councillor Akram Hossain (Ward No-21) attended the ceremony as the special guests.

Ensuring education rights for disabled children stressed

GAIBANDHA : Speakers at a function here yesterday stressed the need for ensuring the rights of education and other existing facilities of the state for the children with disability to enable them to live a decent life, reports BSS.

"Right to information for the children with disability should have to be ensured as they are the inseparable part of the society and deserve to enjoy all basic rights like other privileged sections in the country", they said.

They made the remarks while addressing a function of people's dialogue on ensuring education rights of the children with disability jointly organized by Shwabolambee Unnayan Sangstha (SUS) and Gana Shakkhara Avijan (GSA) on the premises of USS at Putimari area under Shaghata upazila on Saturday.

Deputy speaker of the Bangladesh parliament and local lawmaker Advocate Fazle Rabbi Miah addressed the function as the chief guest and deputy commissioner Ehsan-e-Elahi was present as the special guest. With upazila parishad chairman AHM Golam Shahid Ranzu in the chair, the

function was also addressed, among others, by UNO Abdul Awal, executive director of CCD AHM Noman Khan, programme manager of GSA Mostafizur Rahman and executive director of USS Shahadat Hossain Mondal. Deputy speaker Advocate Rabbi in his speeches gave emphasis on ensuring all rights including education and friendly atmosphere for the children with disability through united and joint efforts of all and changing our attitude to them. He also said the children with disability must be given equal opportunity in academic education like the privileged ones so that they could grow as worthy citizens and contribute their best for the country's development in various fields. An initiative has been taken by the government led by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to distribute brail books for the children with disability on January 01 like other children of the country, he added.

The deputy speaker also took responsibility for fostering Mumun, a girl with disability of his constituency, after hearing her sufferings and woes from her grandmother.

Chuadanga Liberation Day observed

CHUADANGA : Yesterday was the Liberation Day of Chuadanga. On this day in 1971, valiant Freedom Fighters liberated Chuadanga, the then sub-divisional headquarter. Now it is a district headquarter.

To mark the day, Chuadanga district Awami League and Chuadanga district Muktiyoddha Sangsad held separate programmes including hoisting of national flag at Chuadanga district Awami League office, Bijoy procession, discussion meeting and cultural function. The discussion meeting organised by Chuadanga district Awami League was held at its party office. The discussion meeting was presided over by Solaiman Haque Joardar, whip of Jatiya Sangsad. Among others Ashadul Haque Biswas.

<p align="center">Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Local Government Engineering Department Office of the Executive Engineer District: Brahmanbaria.</p>	
<p>Memo No: LGED/EE/BRAB/2014/2410 Reference No LGED/SE(M)/N-19/2014/1794</p>	<p align="right">Dated: 07/12/2014. Dated: 28/10/2014</p>
<p align="center">e-Tender Notice</p>	
<p>e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.bprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of works Tender ID No. 1450* (Package No. e-Tender/LGED/Brab/GOBM/14-15/W-19, Tender ID No. 14510 (Package No. e-Tender/LGED/Brab/GOBM/14-15/W-22), Tender ID No. 14514 (Package No. e-Tender/LGED/Brab/GOBM/14-15/W-26, Tender ID No. 14515 (Package No. e-Tender/LGED/Brab/GOBM/14-15/W-27* & Tender ID No. 14516 (Package No. e-Tender/LGED/Brab/GOBM/14-15/W-28</p>	
<p>This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.</p>	
<p>To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal(http://www.bprocure.gov.bd) is required.</p>	
<p>The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP System portal have to be deposited online through any registered Bank's branches upto 5.00 PM on dated 23/12/2014.</p>	
<p>Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@procure.gov.bd).</p>	
<p align="right"> Executive Engineer LGED, Brahmanbaria. Ph: 0851-55145 </p>	
<p align="center">GD-1738/14 (5x3)</p>	

Diabetes : Emerging formidable health problem

The World Diabetes Day was observed in Bangladesh recently. Different programmes were carried out such as discussion meetings, seminars, rallies, etc. to observe the occasion. But the observance of days such as these are more rituals. The same do not have so much of enduring impact at the field level where so much need to be done in the physical sense to build barriers against this most undesirable disease.

It is worryingly noted that the number of sufferers from diabetes have soared in Bangladesh in recent years. It was reported that there are some 7 million identified sufferers from diabetes in Bangladesh. However, the real number of total sufferers could be greater in the background of the disease not getting detected in so many cases. Indeed, diabetes appears to be the single biggest health threat in Bangladesh nowadays. People with diabetes are seen to be increasing faster in number in Bangladesh compared to other major diseases.

A country like Bangladesh with its modest national health budget and meager resources available at individual and family levels, needs to concentrate more on the preventive sides of diabetes so that people do not acquire this serious health problem in the first place and to train up the ones who get the disease to keep it under control. If this is done, then the expenditure of resources on diabetes related illnesses can be reasonable and diabetic patients can continue to lead useful and productive lives.

Diabetes prevention involve eating more healthfully, becoming more physically active and losing a few extra pounds - and it's never too late to start. Making a few simple changes in lifestyle now may help one to avoid the serious health complications of diabetes down the road, such as nerve, kidney and heart damage.

The first rule to prevent and control diabetes is regular physical activity. Exercise can help one to lose weight, lower blood sugar and to boost sensitivity to insulin which helps to keep blood sugar within a normal range. Research shows that aerobic exercise can help control diabetes, but the greatest benefit comes from a fitness programme that includes both aerobic exercises and exercising with weights.

Foods high in fiber include fruits, vegetables, beans, whole grains, nuts and seeds. Regular consumption of these can help to ward off diabetes in the first place or to control the same if already developed.

Diabetes related information in Bangladesh require regular and focused dissemination in the mass media more so to create greater awareness as diabetes is posing as a serious and spreading health concern in the country. As it is, such publicities are only intermittent when the media needs to campaign on a daily basis to alert people about the disease.

How Italy lost la dolce vita

Simon Kuper

Italy's demographic pyramid functions as follows: the old have nice pensions, the middle-aged are unsackable and the young fight for temporary contracts

You walk around Reggio Emilia and you think: this is paradise. Here, on a sun-dappled autumnal morning, was the paceless, impeccable life of a northern Italian provincial town. Well-dressed locals swarmed through ancient piazzas.

But it was an illusion of paradise. That morning, the locals were swarming to Reggio's giant open-air clothes market where prices started at 50 cents. New shoes cost €6 (Dh27.2). While Italy sinks, people keep up appearances.

"Crisis" isn't the word for Italy any more, says the British historian of Italy, John Foot. A "crisis" ends, whereas Italy just keeps declining, like almost no other developed country since 1945. Real incomes are now lower than 15 years ago. Over three visits to northern Italy this autumn, I've tried to understand how ceaseless decay changes the way a country lives.

The "lost generation" of young Italians suffers most. They sit chatting on the steps of Bologna Cathedral, reluctant to spend €1 on a perfect espresso in a café. Italy's demographic pyramid functions as follows: the old have nice pensions, the middle-aged are unsackable and the young fight for temporary contracts. A common situation: a highly educated young Italian performs menial tasks for a less qualified older boss, often for free.

"It's not like you can have life plans like having a baby or buying a house," says Marianna Albini, a young writer. "If you have a contract for six months, you wonder if you should join the gym. What's a career?" she laughs.

But the new dispensation has upsides, she says. If you have no chance of a career, staying late in the office is pointless. Instead, younger Italians seek fulfilment outside work, in personal projects like blogs or evenings with friends, says Albini.

Another solution: forfeit the good Italian life and emigrate. A banker's wife told me of a recent party for Milan's elite where almost everybody seemed to have sent their children abroad. When even the elite flee, there's a problem.

Many southern Italians are desperate. Transfers from the north have been slashed. But in northern families, hardship typically remains limited. Italian families have relatively little private debt. Many own their homes outright. Grandpa has his pension. Because few people are now having babies, families are dying out, which diminishes the need to save. So northern families slowly consume their wealth, and even the young get their share. Some 37-year-olds still live with their parents, in their childhood bedrooms, the generations clamped in a perverse unequal alliance.

In one of Elena Ferrante's novels, a woman wears her dead mother's underwear, "much mended and with ancient elastic that showed here and there through the torn seams". You wish this were only a metaphor.

Older Italians often dismiss young people as "big babies" who won't grow up. The writer Giuliano da Empoli told me that in fact it's the older generation - incarnated by Silvio Berlusconi - whose shortsighted teenage self-gratification created today's mess. Younger Italians, says Da Empoli, need great maturity to navigate the mess.

Most young people don't want much, says Gianni Riotta, a senior Italian journalist: just the simple Italian life of good food and drink, and a seaside holiday in summer. That's the sogno italiano, or "Italian dream", to borrow the slogan of a Reggio ice-cream parlour. Even an unambitious job for life used to buy you that. But young people cannot get jobs for life.

- Financial Times

Ashton Carter wields history as guide to effective policymaking

GOPAL RATNAM

Those in Congress who see Carter as a possible hawkish counterweight to Obama may be disappointed in the potential nominee's measured take on a wide range of foreign-policy issues

Most accounts of Ash Carter's education mention his doctoral degree in theoretical physics but often overlook his bachelor's degree in medieval history. Many reports also paint Carter as a trigger-happy, shoot-first, ask-questions-later type of military thinker because he once called for bombing North Korea.

But a broad look at Carter's media interviews and published work reveals a man who's as cautious about the use of American military power as President Barack Obama and not very different from Defence Secretary Chuck Hagel - the man Carter may replace as the Pentagon chief.

Those in Congress who see Carter as a possible hawkish counterweight to Obama may be disappointed in the potential nominee's measured take on a wide range of foreign-policy issues that would confront him as the next defence secretary if he's nominated: Terrorism, the rise of Daesh (the so-called Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant), the US presence in Afghanistan, ties with Asian allies, and Iran's nuclear ambitions. Some of Carter's past writings, meanwhile, could be grist for Republicans looking to slow his confirmation or to use the hearings as a chance to cudgel Obama.

Iran is likely to be a major flashpoint. During his disastrous January 2013 confirmation hearings, Hagel garbled the Obama administration's stated policy on Iran's nuclear programme by saying the White House supports "containment".

Hagel had to then quickly, and embarrassingly, reverse himself and say the administration's policy was actually predicated on preventing Tehran from ever acquiring a bomb in the first place.

If nominated, Carter would almost certainly face tough questions about whether he would be willing to accept the idea of containing a nuclear Iran, a toxic idea on Capitol Hill.

In an essay published in 2008 by the Centre for a New American Security about US options for dealing with Iran, Carter argues that military force alone wouldn't be enough to keep Iran from going nuclear and should instead be part of a "complete strategy integrating political, economic, and military elements."

Air strikes may not decisively stop Iran's nuclear ambitions and instead may spur the country to achieve its goals through subterfuge, making it more likely that the US would have to be satisfied with containing a nuclear Iran, Carter wrote.

Writing like the diligent student of Yale and Oxford he once was, Carter noted, "My assigned topic is 'military options for dealing with Iran's nuclear programme', but I have re-titled this paper to reflect" that the use of armed force against Iran couldn't be divorced from a broader strategy to contain Iran's nuclear ambitions. Instead, Carter gave his paper a

new heading: 'Military Elements in a Strategy to Deal with Iran's Nuclear Programme'.

The reason for the new title, he wrote, "is that whenever military action is contemplated, one must ask the question, 'What happens next?'"

The phrase echoes Obama's own ambivalence about the use of martial power to achieve national goals, particularly in a country as large, militarily powerful, and strategically important as Iran.

Carter described how American planners would have to analyse the effectiveness of potential US air strikes on Iran's nuclear facilities, drawing on Israel's experience in destroying Iraq's Osirak reactor in 1981 and the planned - but never carried out - US strike against North Korea's Yongbyon complex in 1994.

"Unfortunately, a strike on Iran's nuclear complexes would not have as decisive a technical result" as the Iraqi or planned North Korean strikes, Carter wrote. The biggest impediment to shutting down Iran's programme with such strikes would be if Iran had a "parallel, secret, and undiscovered enrichment programme" that was somehow further along than its known facilities, Carter wrote.

"Air strikes on the Iranian nuclear programme or other targets could conceivably reset the diplomatic table in pursuit of a negotiated end to the nuclear programme, but they could also easily overturn the diplomatic table," he wrote.

A large-scale military assault on Iran "would presumably be incompatible with a return to negotiations with the current Iranian government and must be seen as part of the major alternative to negotiating a curb in Iran's nuclear programme: A strategy of containment of an Iran destined to go nuclear," Carter wrote.

After writing that paper Carter, went on to serve in the Obama administration, first as the Pentagon's top weapons buyer and later as the deputy secretary of defence.

Meanwhile, the Obama administration has pursued some of the policy options Carter laid out in the 2008 essay: A combination of tough economic sanctions and vigorous diplomacy designed to stop Iran from enriching nuclear fuel that can be used to make bombs. Those efforts led to a November 2013 agreement under which the West loosened some of the sanctions on Iran in exchange for a temporary cessation of Iran's enrichment activities. A long-term deal to halt Tehran's production of bomb-grade nuclear fuel, however, has been elusive. Late last month, the US and its partners reluctantly agreed to a seven-month extension after the latest November 24 deadline for a deal failed to produce one. Obama has been criticised for suggesting that American military power has its limits, drawing fire for remarks like a May 2014 speech arguing that "just because we have the best hammer does not mean that every problem is a nail." Carter has been similarly cautious about assuming that every problem has a military

solution.

"We are necessary to the solution of many world problems. But we're not sufficient anymore," Carter said in a July 2014 interview with Charlie Rose on PBS, months after leaving his job as the deputy defence secretary. "That doesn't have to do with the diminution in our power relative to others, it has to do with the way the world works - how widespread technology is; how widespread social media are... the ability of people everywhere to participate more."

That means that whether it was Iraq today, Syria today, Afghanistan, and so forth, the way you approach them today as the US is I think to recognise that we are a necessary but usually not sufficient force to affect the policy objective we're seeking," Carter said, using the type of language that led Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman General Martin Dempsey to affectionately refer to him last year as an "uber-work."

Asked by Rose if the US could have done anything to stop the emergence of Daesh - as many critics of the Obama administration allege - Carter blamed the group's ascendancy on the Syrian civil war careening out of control and sidestepped the issue of whether Washington should have gotten involved earlier in the conflict.

"I think if the Syrian war hadn't tragued out of control for four or five years, clearly an environment in which a group like Daesh could arm itself and propel itself into western Iraq... would not have, would not have occurred," Carter said. "It's a little trickier to know, to say - I'm just being honest with you - what leverage the US or any of the other many participants in this might have had over that situation given the intransigence of Al Assad, the support [of] Russia for Al Assad and the crazy-quilt nature of the insurgency against him," he said, speaking about Syrian President Bashar Al Assad. As to whether the continued presence of US troops in Iraq could have prevented the rise of Daesh or if American intelligence could have spotted the group's rise sooner, Carter in his PBS interview backed the Obama administration's standard talking points: "I think it's undoubtedly true that Isis [Daesh] surprised everyone with the rapidity with which they were made to cause the collapse of the Iraqi security forces to the west of Iraq." Despite his careful phrasing and parsing of words on a range of topics, the one subject that anti-war and liberal lawmakers are likely to question Carter about are his blunt views on North Korea. In a 2006 op-ed in the Washington Post, titled "If Necessary, Strike and Destroy," Carter and former Secretary of Defence William Perry wrote, "If North Korea persists in its launch preparations, the United States should immediately make clear its intention to strike and destroy the North Korean Taepodong missile before it can be launched." Back then North Korea was threatening to break out of a moratorium on launches of long-range ballistic missiles that the reclusive nation had observed

since 1999. Pyongyang had boasted that it had obtained six to eight bombs' worth of plutonium between 2003 and 2006, and six-party talks aimed at curbing the country's nuclear ambitions had failed.

Still, the call by two Democrats for a preventive strike against North Korea was shocking, "especially after so many critics of the Iraq war had stripped the bark off Bush 43 for engaging in what now can only be considered a preventive war," as Tom Nichols, a professor of National Security Affairs at the US Naval War College, wrote on his blog, referring to Bush's decision to invade Iraq in 2003 in search of weapons of mass destruction that were never found.

But, Nichols added, Carter's position may have been "part of trend of general exhaustion with rogue regimes and a complete evaporation of any tolerance for risk from crazies with nuclear programmes" in the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks.

Carter's tough language on North Korea also may have been prompted by his dealings with the regime when he served in the Clinton administration as a nuclear non-proliferation specialist at the Pentagon, Nichols wrote.

In a 1994 interview with PBS, Carter recounted the experience he and Perry had in dealing with North Korea. "Remember, the North Koreans have a very heated rhetoric, and a very heated way of talking to foreigners, including Americans," Carter told PBS. "They talk about how they're going to turn Seoul into a sea of fire. They're going to turn Tokyo into a sea of fire. They'll ask you, 'Where are you from?' And when you tell them where you're from, they'll say, 'Well, we're going to turn that into a sea of fire.' " Carter went on to say that when Perry told the North Koreans he was from San Francisco, they said, "Well, we can turn San Francisco into a sea of fire." Many aspects of Carter's background would distinguish him from his predecessors as secretaries of defence. Carter came of age after the Vietnam War, never served in uniform, and has a minor in a field - medieval history - that is probably irrelevant for an official charged with overseeing the world's biggest and most powerful military. But Carter believes a solid grounding in history is essential to effective policymaking. While political and economic theories try to explain actions and courses pursued by nations and their leaders, history is a better guide, Carter told Rose in his July 2014 interview. "I enjoyed and still enjoy history because it is the single discipline from the world of learning that most informs action in the world," Carter said. While physics explains how things work, history shows "why things are the way they are."

With a combination of how and why, "you're a little bit on the road to figuring out what to do next and how to make the world a better place," Carter said.

- Washington Post
Gopal Ratnam is a staff writer at Foreign Policy.

German foreign policy comes of age

JOSCHKA FISCHER

Nation regained full sovereignty at its reunification and has been trying to figure out how to use it ever since.

Germany's reunification, nearly 25 years ago, once again placed at the heart of Europe a large power whose location, economic potential, and, yes, history, raised suspicions of revived hegemonic ambitions. Major European leaders at the time - including Giulio Andreotti, Margaret Thatcher, and François Mitterrand - worried that Germany might seek to revise the results of the two world wars.

In German political circles in 1990, the very idea would have seemed monstrous and absurd. But the end of Germany's partition also meant the end of the Cold War's bipolar world order; and, as the world confronts an accumulation of dangerous regional crises and tensions (in Ukraine, the Middle East, and East Asia), the absence of a new order has become dangerously apparent.

Worries about the return of history's ghosts so far have been unfounded, at least as far as Germany is concerned. Though the global financial crisis and its effects on Europe have de facto turned Germany into an economic hegemon, it is not a role that the government sought or relishes. The reunited Germany remains a peaceful democracy, recognises all neighbouring borders, and remains firmly anchored in Nato and the European Union.

But, while Germany today poses no threat to its neighbours or the European order, this obviously was not always so. For the first 70 years

after its unification in 1871, Germany sought to enforce - more or less alone and against France - its political and military dominance in Europe. Failure in the First World War led to radicalisation under Adolf Hitler, which ended in total defeat and Germany's partition.

West Germany, founded in 1949, was anything but a sovereign power in foreign-policy terms. The start of the Cold War meant the young West German democracy's firm integration into the western bloc, under the tutelage of the three Western Allies - Britain, France and America.

Integration with the West took precedence over German unity. Neutrality in exchange for reunification did not have the support of a majority in the Federal Republic, and certainly not of the Allied powers. But successful integration with the West presupposed reconciliation with France, the old enemy and neighbour.

Germany also had to overcome the moral catastrophe of Nazism. Its core foreign-policy concern was to regain the respect of the international community, and, ultimately, to retain the possibility of eventual reunification. These goals formed the basis of the Federal Republic's support for European integration, its approach to the Eastern Bloc (Ostpolitik), and reconciliation with former enemies and the victims of Nazism - particularly the Jews.

When reunification came, on October 3, 1990, Germany regained full sovereignty. It has been trying

to figure out how to use it ever since.

Europe's main power could no longer claim a special role within Nato and abstain from all military operations beyond its territory. To do so could have created a strategic vacuum in the heart of Europe and raised questions about whether the country was perhaps again pursuing its own route, this time between East and West.

Germany thus had to find a way forward that satisfied both the pacifism of a large majority of the German public and the military requirements of Nato.

The fragility of Germany's foreign-policy foundations was to become clear during the aftermath of the 2008 financial crisis. Though the main democratic parties agreed after 1990 that continuity and predictability in German foreign policy were essential, it was Germany that opposed a European response to the crisis and insisted on national solutions that would be coordinated by the EU.

As Europe's strongest economy, Germany suddenly was forced to lead. But it knew no better than to impose the lessons of its own experience - particularly a concern for price stability that harks back to interwar hyperinflation - on the rest of Europe. Germany's government still confuses the successful recipes of the Federal Republic with the very different needs of a continental economy's leading power. As a result, the EU has been in a permanent crisis, characterised by economic stagnation and high

unemployment.

But Russia's return to militarism in Europe's east now seems to be bringing about a gradual shift. Suddenly, the security of Germany's own territory is at stake again. Indeed, Russian President Vladimir Putin's policies imply a direct threat to the EU's most fundamental principles, which have defined German foreign policy for decades. It is no coincidence that one of Putin's central aims is to disengage Germany from the West (or at least to neutralise it). But German Chancellor Angela Merkel has undergone a remarkable transformation. Though she has remained willing to talk to the Kremlin, her commitment to Western unity has been unwavering.

This was clear in a recent speech in Sydney, in which she broke with the "policy of small steps" that had guided her in the post-2008 euro crisis. She clearly named the threat that Putin poses to Europe - precisely because the threat is not confined to Ukraine. It was a remarkable speech. And it provides room for hope that, faced with the current crises in the EU and in Eastern Europe, German foreign policy may finally be finding its feet.

- Project Syndicate, 2014.
Joschka Fischer, Germany's foreign minister and vice chancellor from 1998 to 2005, was a leader of the German Green Party for almost 20 years.

Cotton prospect shines bright in Rangpur

RANGPUR : Cotton farming in the region holds out a shining prospect as the farmers are showing increasing trend towards it for the higher income from the crop, reports UNB. Interest in cultivation of

cotton cultivation; and thus to increase its production in the region, official sources said.

Chief scientific officer of Rangpur Cotton Development Board Zillur Rahman said aiming to

production units of Cotton Development Board in the Rangpur division in the 2012-2013 season, added the scientific officer.

About 3,678 tonnes of cotton seeds and 7,005 bales of cotton fibre were

hybrid variety on their lands following rise in its production.

Nawsher Ali Khan, a cotton grower of Ghonirampur village in Taraganj upazila, said he has brought 65 decimals of land

cotton seeds this year.

He also said that the cotton growers need not to worry about its price and sale like other crops as the price of cotton is same in all the districts across the country.

Besides, the growers can sell their produce through the Cotton Development Board, he said.

At present, cotton is being sold at Tk2,500 per maund in Rangpur region.

The chief scientific officer said one lakh to one and a half lakh bales of fibre cotton are being produced in the country against the demand of about 42 lakh bales per year.

Of the total, 70 per cent is produced in Chuadanga, Kushtia and Jhenidah districts.

Cultivation of cotton is being increased every year in the Rangpur region, he added.

He also claimed that the growers can earn double from cotton farming than paddy on the same land.

The farmers are being motivated to bring more lands under cotton cultivation in the division, he said.

For this purpose, the growers are provided with loan, seeds and other inputs to boost production and arrangements are also made to help easy sale of their produces.

The government has taken a plan to extract edible oil and oil cake from cotton seeds. A factory, meanwhile, has been set up under private sector in Kushtia district, which now waits opening, he added.



My war is not over yet

DHAKA : Sharif Masood, a valiant guerrilla fighter and an ex corporal of East Bengal Regiment, successfully driven out the enemies from his beloved motherland and freed his countrymen from the immense sufferings. But it was hard to cope with the emotional stress as he was struggling to find his wife after the war had ended, reports BSS.

Journalist Fox Butterfield of 'The New York Times' talked to Masood at the makeshift office of Mukti Bahini situated at the then Dacca Ladies Club, as the guerillas set up the office after the war ended to try to help their comrades find lost relatives and friends. Masood, who took part in the final military drive on Dacca said he has not seen his wife since March 25, when he was arrested along with 1,800 other members of his regiment, adding, "My war is not over yet.""They kept us in a college dormitory, giving us only bread and tea and occasionally a bit of rice...They used to beat us almost every day with their rifle butts and sometimes they hung us upside down and beat us," Butterfield quoted Masood in his special report titled "Guerrillas Seek Lost Relatives" dated December 28, 1971.

The report narrates Masood saying, one day Pakistani soldiers took him and his 200 comrades to a bridge over a small river and

began shooting them one at a time. When his turn came, he said, he jumped into the river "before they realize what was happening."

After his close call with death he returned to his native village only to find that his house had been burned down and his wife was missing, apparently taken away by Pakistani troops.

At the makeshift office, Abdul Hossain, a guerrilla commander, was seen interviewing an endless line of men, whose stories are somewhat similar to Masood.

More than 5,000 applications for help cover Hossain's desk and the floor around him, and the line of the people seeking assistance still starts outside the garden of the club, where wives of high Pakistani officials once held tea parties, the report said.

The report also narrated ordeal of Mohammad Razzak, a company commander of Mukti Bahini, as he was standing in the bright sun in the garden and waiting for his turn to lodge plea for help.

He was trying to find his brother, who had been a telegraph operator in Jessore and Pakistani troops arrested him in early April, 1971, and his whereabouts since then has been unknown. The war-wounded Razzak still wearing a bandage on his left hand where he was hit by a rifle fire, said he was wounded not once but twice.



the crop is growing among the farmers as its price has increased remarkably in the international market.

Encouraged by the price higher than ever in the international market, the cultivators are bringing more areas of land under cotton farming.

Besides, the Cotton Development Board is motivating the farmers to use their fallow lands in

boost production of cotton in Rangpur division, its cultivation has been increased substantially in Rangpur, Gaibandha, Lalmonirhat and Kurigram districts in the last several years.

A total of 1,603 hectares of land, including 1,343 under high-yielding variety and 260 under hybrid variety, were brought under cotton farming in 16 cotton

produced then, he said further.

In the 2013-14 season, 4,170 tonnes of cotton seeds and 8,340 bales of cotton fibre were produced from 1,813 hectares of land, including 1,441 hectares under high-yielding variety and 372 hectares under hybrid variety, in the Rangpur zone.

Most of the growers in the district are cultivating the

under cotton cultivation by spending Tk25,000 this season.

He is expecting to collect 30 maunds of cotton seeds while he got 25 maunds from the same quantity of land last year.

Another grower Nawab Ali at the same village said he has cultivated cotton on one acre of land by spending Tk30,000 with an output target of 40 maunds of

Nandail mayor to work for betterment of the municipality

A.F. M Azizul Islam Pikul, the 3rd Mayor of Nandail Pourashava, Mymensingh informed about vision regarding his elected area to The Bangladesh Today Senior journalist Musfiqur Rahman, "The 3rd Mayor of Nandail pourashava, also the youngest Mayor of the country added, 'neither I have any political intention nor I am here to full fill any political agenda, rather the inhabitants of the locality elected me to work with them for the betterment of the pourashava'".

Expressing the dream to serve the nation he added, "I was elected Mayor at 17 January 2014 by the grace of almighty Allah and the inevitable support of the people of Nandail Pourashava".

Before being elected my development agenda was the construction of the road From Nandail bazar to Dewangong bypass Road and form Nandail Memorial to Dewangong bypass road via

Nandail Charianipara. "The construction of Drain From word No-09 Trisa Nisa Building to Narasunda River Road and to extend Road Lamp existing No-200 to 700 are my another agenda" he added.



Mayor A.F. M Azizul Islam Pikul

"I deposited to 2500 holding tax and rickshaw renewal fees from my personal fund and deducted the holding tax of No:-52 Freedom fighters for ever. Completed the purified water supply project at word

no-9 by the assistance of JICA which extend to other words very soon".

When asked about the allotting procedure from the central government, "Every year the local government grants ADB allotment maximum 50-60 Laes taka which is very poor allotment than the demand".

"Personally I thought that I completed 70% development works and hope, I shall implement the pre-planned services for the people. I processed tender system open to all concern free and fare", the young local government representative added.

The young leader got Mother Teresa award for social development, General Osmani award for decreasing poverty. Mayor Dr. Shalidullah award and Zia Smrity padak were conferred him for the recognition of radical developments activities as a successful Mayor and all the awarding ceremony were held in 2003.

Narsingdi freedom fighters played heroic role in Liberation War

NARSINGDI : Freedom fighter (FF) of Narsingdi district had a glorious role in the historic War of Liberation in 1971. The people of the district join the liberation war at the call of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, reports BSS.

After the black night of March 25, the locals formed a Sangram Parishad led by Moslehuddin Bhuiyan. People from all walks of life including students took preparations to resist the Pakistani occupation forces and put up barricades on different roads.

On 25 March, over 3,000 rebel EPR soldiers, Ansar and police reached Narsingdi by launches. A huge quantity of arms and ammunition also reached by train. Captain Motiur Rahman received the arms. About one thousand youths and students took up arms in their hands and they started crossing border for taking training.

The Pakistani forces on April 4 and 5 carried out air attacks on different places of the district,

About 200 helpless man, women and children died in indiscriminate attacks. But the killing could not

position. And as a result, Pakistani forces were able to set up camps at different places of the district.

A terrible battle took place between freedom fighters and Pakistani forces at Nilkutthi beside



Bangladesh signs deal to export 50,000 tonne rice to Sri Lanka

Bangladesh signed a pact on Wednesday to export 50,000 tonnes of rice to Sri Lanka at \$450 a tonne in a first government-to-government deal, a senior food ministry official said.

but this deal would be its first export of non-fragrant coarse rice.

The price of rice has shot up in Sri Lanka after production dropped due to an 11-month drought, which experts consider to

Lanka Sathosa Ltd, signed the deal.

The price included freight and insurance and the shipment of the parboiled rice would be within 60 days, the ministry official said.

Bangladesh aims to produce more than 34 million tonnes of rice this year, up from nearly 33.5 million in the previous year. Its reserves have risen to more than 1.2 million tonnes from nearly 1 million tonnes a year earlier.

The world's fourth-biggest rice producer, Bangladesh consumes almost all its production to feed its population of 160 million. It often needs to import rice to cope with shortages caused by natural calamities such as floods or droughts.

Although it did not import rice during the last two years, Bangladesh was ranked as the fourth-largest importer of the grain by the U.S. Department of Agriculture in 2011, with a volume of 1.48 million tonnes.

In late 2012, the government considered lifting a four-year-old ban on rice exports to support farmers as record crops and bulging domestic reserves pushed prices below production costs.



Strong output and good reserves have prompted the Bangladesh government to initiate the plan to export rice. Bangladesh exports a small quantity of aromatic rice,

be the worst in its recent history.

Mohammad Sarwar Khan, director general of the Bangladesh food department, and Nalin Fernando, chairman of the

dampen the spirit of the freedom loving people of Narsingdi. The first guerilla encounter took place in Bagbari and Palbari near Madhobdi on April 14 when the Pakistani forces were trying to occupy Narsingdi by land routes. The local forces and freedom fighters resisted the invading forces.

In this encounter, Mirajuddin, Mir Imdadul Hoque Imamuddin, Abdul Mannan, Abdul Hamid, Aktar Hossain, Abul Hossain, Shamsul Huda Bacchu, Bazlur Rahman, Goas Ali Master, Ali Akbar and Motaleb Pathan played an important role.

After one day, the Pakistani forces again attacked the freedom fighters and in face of heavy bombing the freedom fighters were compelled to retreat from their

The Pakistani forces with the help of collaborators Rajakers killed a good number of people at 15 places in the six upazilas of the district.

During the nine-month war, the Pakistani forces killed many people in the district town and its adjacent areas and dumped the bodies of the victims in the river Meghna.

Narsingdi Telephone Exchange, Shoshanghat, Khatahara Bridge were the main killing spots where the occupation forces used brought abducted people to exterminate.

Besides, a number of freedom loving people were killed brutally at Shilmandhi, Tara Pukurpur and Jinerdee.

The Pakistani forces with the help of collaborators kidnapped Shoraz Kumar Adhikari, professor of Narsingdi Govt. College, and killed him brutally.

Arial Khan river in Belabo upazila in the last week of November where 35 people including Subader Abul Bashar, Momotaz Uddin, Abdus Salam, Abdul Hoque and Abdul Bari embraced martyrdom. They were buried en mass on the bank of Arial Khan river.

Narsingdi was liberated from the occupation forces in the last battle on December 12, just four days ahead of the Victory Day. Many named and unnamed freedom fighters embraced martyrdom in the last battle.

Freedom fighters attacked the Pakistani army on the night of December 10. At one stage, they cordoned off the main enemy camp from all sides. After failing to face the massive attack, the Pakistani forces surrendered without fighting on December 12.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Union home minister Rajnath Singh, Union finance minister Arun Jaitley and chief ministers and governors of various states after their meeting on Planning Commission revamp, in New Delhi on Sunday.

Nepal jails 5 former rebels for journalist murder, torture

KATHMANDU: A Nepalese court jailed five former Maoist rebels on Sunday over the torture and killing of a journalist, lawyers said, in the first such ruling for crimes committed during the country's civil war. The men, all middle-ranking cadres, were convicted and sentenced to up to two years in prison over the abduction and murder in 2004 of Dekendra Raj Thapa, a radio reporter and human rights activist, reports AFP/BSS.

Investigations have showed that Thapa was repeatedly beaten unconscious before being buried alive during the decade-long conflict that ended in 2006. "The court found them guilty of their involvement in the case and sentenced them to one to two years in prison," said Basanta Gautam, the lawyer for the journalist's family. Gautam had appealed for life sentences during the trial. Rights activists slammed the sentence as too lenient, saying it set a discouraging precedent for victims and their relatives who had been hoping for harder justice from the country's criminal courts. "We are appalled by the decision," said Mandira Sharma, a human rights lawyer and activist.

"This case was representative of the crimes committed during the war... how will people trust the country's justice system now?"

Four other former Maoists accused in the case are still on the run. The verdict is the first by the courts despite allegations of killings and torture on both sides during the conflict.

More than 16,000 people died in the civil war between Maoist rebels and government forces, but rights groups say little has been done to bring justice for those affected. Nepal is in the process of setting up a Truth and Reconciliation Commission on the Disappeared, aimed at healing wounds from the conflict.

Most CMs favour restructuring of Planning Commission, no consensus on disbanding it

NEW DELHI: A meeting called by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to discuss the future of the Planning Commission on Sunday saw most chief ministers favouring restructuring of the Soviet-era body, but there was no consensus on disbanding the existing set-up.

Modi, who has announced in his Independent Day speech that the Planning Commission would be replaced by a new body which is in sync with the contemporary economic world, invoked former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh who had said on April 30 this year that the current structure has "no futuristic vision in the post-reform period". Modi pushed for an effective structure

which strengthens "cooperative federalism" and the concept of "Team India".

Indications from the day-long meeting suggested that the government is looking at a structure which will have the Prime Minister, some Cabinet ministers and some chief ministers along with technocrats and experts in various fields. The chief ministers could be included in the body on rotation basis and the states could be given liberty to spend funds according to their needs.

Finance minister Arun Jaitley, while briefing the media on the deliberations of the meeting, said no time-line has been fixed, saying the Centre will take a "considered view after consultations are over".



A Sri Lankan man walks past a billboard bearing portraits of President Mahinda Rajapakse in Colombo on Sunday.

Sri Lanka cuts energy prices ahead of polls

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka slashed cooking gas prices on Sunday just one day after the cost of diesel and petrol was also cut ahead of next month's presidential election, reports AFP/BSS.

The ministry of internal trade said it was reducing the price of a standard cylinder of gas used for cooking by 11.6 percent to 1,896 rupees (\$14.50) from Sunday, the second such cut in recent months. The loss-making state-run Ceylon Petroleum Corporation announced on Saturday it was cutting diesel and gasoline prices by nearly five percent, also the second recent reduction.

It denied the move was an election sweetener instructed by President Mahinda

Rajapakse's government, insisting the cut was connected to falling global oil prices.

The reduction comes despite the fact that the corporation has accumulated losses of 240 billion rupees (\$1.84 billion), according to company officials. Rajapakse, who is also finance minister, is seeking reelection for an unprecedented third term on January 8.

But he faces a strong challenge from his former health minister, Maithripala Sirisena, who defected to the main opposition party last month. While Rajapakse remains generally popular with voters from the Sinhalese majority for ending a 37-year war against Tamil separatists in 2009, critics say he has become increasingly authoritarian.

Historical Day

Sharmila Tagore's Birth Day

Sharmila Tagore is a renowned Indian film actor who was born on 8th December 1946 in West Bengal, India. Her career as an actress began in 1959, when she was 14 years old, in the film Apur Sansar, which was produced by Satyajit Ray. Satyajit Ray had to shout at her to take instructions but he was impressed with her acting. He cast her for other films, often putting her to star alongside Soumitra Chatterjee. Other directors paired her with Rajesh Khanna, for example in Safar (1970) and Daag (1973).

In 1964, she became popular when she starred in Kashmir Ki Kali by Shakti Samanta. Other films by Samanta which she starred in include An Evening in Paris (1967), Aradhana (1969), Amar Prem (1972) among others. In 1975, she starred in Mausam, a film by Gulzar. 1991 saw her getting a supporting role in Mississippi Masala as the mother of the heroine Sarita Choudhary.

In her latest release film; Eklavya: The Royal Guard, Tagore shares the screen with her real life son Saif Ali Khan. He has been an actor since 1993, when she helped to launch him as a leading man in Aashiqui Awara.

Philippine typhoon weakens after landfall

LEGAZPI: Typhoon Hagupit knocked out power in entire coastal provinces, mowed down trees and sent more than 650,000 people into shelters, but no major damage or casualties have been reported as the storm weakened Sunday, reports AP. Typhoon Hagupit knocked out power in entire coastal provinces, mowed down trees and sent more than 650,000 people into shelters before it weakened Sunday, sparing the central Philippines a repetition of unprecedented devastation by last year's storm, reports AP.

Shallow floods, damaged shanties and ripped off store signs and tin roofs were a common sight across the region, but there were no confirmed deaths or major destruction after Hagupit slammed into Eastern Samar and other island provinces. It was packing maximum sustained winds of 140 kilometers (87 miles) per hour and gusts of 170 kph (106 mph), considerably weaker from its peak power but still a potentially deadly storm, according to forecasters.

Hagupit slammed into Eastern Samar province in the central Philippines late Saturday and lost strength as it barreled westward across a string of island provinces.

President Xi demands accelerated FTA strategy

BEIJING : President Xi Jinping on Friday called for accelerated fulfillment of the free trade area (FTA) strategy and the building of a new economic system of openness, reports UNB.

The remarks, published on Saturday, were made at a meeting of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee on Friday.

The FTA strategy is an important part of China's new round of opening-up, Xi said. Multilateral trade systems and regional trade arrangements have always been the driving force behind economic globalization.

Global trade is experiencing the largest change since the Uruguay round of trade

talks in 1994, Xi said.

As the economy is entering its "new normal", China needs even more opening-up to address problems in economic and social development, he added.

China must accelerate the FTA strategy and make FTAs play a bigger role in trade and investment, he said.

Accelerating the FTA strategy is an important way for China to actively participate in the rule-making of international economic and trade areas, he added.

We can not just be spectators and followers, but should participate and lead, make China's voice heard and inject more Chinese elements into the international rules, he said. In recent

years, China has been pushing forward opening-up, having signed numerous free trade agreements with more than 20 countries or regions.

Top-level design and planning must be improved to set up a network of FTAs, "which has a foothold in neighboring regions, and radiates across the 'Belt and Road Initiatives', to face the world," the President said.

The number of its FTAs needs to increase, but more attention must be paid to the quality of these FTAs with more emphasis on risk and risk assessment. Market-oriented reform will create a law-based business environment, and economic restructuring should move faster, according to the President.



President Xi Jinping on Friday called for accelerated fulfillment of the free trade area (FTA) strategy.

Hong Kong protest leader, Joshua Wong, ends hunger strike

HONG KONG : Joshua Wong, the teenage student who became an icon of Hong Kong's protests for greater democracy, has ended a hunger strike after four days, reports BBC.

Mr Wong said he was halting his 108-hour strike on the advice of a doctor.

However, he said the protesters' fight would go on. Three other students are still refusing food.

The protests - which began two months ago - are calling for China to drop restrictions on the 2017 election of

Hong Kong's next leader.

The demonstrations, spearheaded by the students, initially drew tens of thousands of people onto the streets.

Recently the numbers have been much smaller. Only two protest camps remain in the centre of the city, after a third one was dismantled by police last Sunday.

Mr Wong and fellow students began an "indefinite" hunger strike on Monday, calling on the government to resume talks on electoral

reform.

However, the government has refused to accede to the protesters' demands.

"As a government, we won't accept any illegal actions... or actions like a hunger strike to convince us to make concessions," Hong Kong's Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs, Raymond Tam, said.

Announcing the end of the strike on his Facebook page, Mr Wong said he felt "extreme physical discomfort, dizziness and weakness in the limbs".



The protesters have been thwarted from retaking parts of the city by a heavy police presence.

Spot Light News

Quake collapses wall, kills sleeping boy in China

BEIJING: An earthquake struck southwest China, collapsing a wall of a house and killing a 9-year-old boy sleeping inside, reports AP. The official Xinhua News Agency said the quake hit a rural area of Yunnan province on Saturday evening, causing many people to rush out of buildings. According to the U.S. Geological Survey, the quake had a magnitude of 5.5. The Yunnan Seismological Bureau said in a statement Sunday that an additional 22 people were injured in the earthquake and another, slightly weaker, one in the area on Saturday.

China slams Philippines over South China Sea case

BEIJING: China on Sunday again rejected an attempt by the Philippines to challenge its vast territorial claims over the South China Sea through international arbitration, a week before a deadline for Beijing to respond to the case, reports AP. China prefers to settle its disputes in discussions with the countries directly involved. But the Philippines has filed a case with a tribunal operating under the U.N. Convention of the Law of the Sea, which provides a regulatory framework for the use of the world's seas and oceans.

Suspected US drone strike kills 4 in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani intelligence officials say a suspected U.S. drone strike on a Taliban compound in the North Waziristan tribal region has killed at least four alleged militants, reports AP. Two intelligence officials say two missiles hit the compound of a suspected Taliban commander in the village of Khara Tanga in the Datta Khel area early Sunday. They say the strike also wounded two militants. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to speak to journalists.

Woman accuses Uber driver in India of rape

NEW DELHI: Indian police said Sunday that they are searching for a taxi driver from the international cab-booking service Uber for allegedly raping a young woman in the capital, reports UNB.

Investigators found a taxi that was abandoned by the 32-year-old driver, police officer Alma Ming said. Ming said the woman, who works at a finance company, was returning from a dinner engagement Friday and used the mobile app Uber to hail a car to drive her home.

Proposed Iran federal budget reduces oil reliance

TEHRAN: Iranian President Hasan Rouhani has presented parliament a draft budget that would reduce the government's reliance on oil revenues, reports AP.

The \$72 billion budget, unveiled Sunday, is about 6 percent more than the previous year's budget of \$68 billion. Oil revenues will make up just 33 percent of the proposed budget for the next Iranian calendar year that begins March 21, while it was 50 percent the previous year.

Babri not Hindu-Mislum fight: Irfan Habib

ALIGARH: Eminent historian Irfan Habib on Sunday called upon "all secular forces irrespective of political affiliations" to join hands and unitedly face the onslaught of the "communal forces".

"The events of the past few months and the growing threat to the very concept of India has prompted me to issue this appeal to all secular parties. Certain policies of the present government, especially saffronisation of education and history, have convinced me that there is an urgent need now to speak out," he said, while delivering a lecture at Aligarh Muslim University.



Distraught Morsi supporters.

Reuters

Egypt sentences four Muslim Brotherhood members to death

CAIRO: An Egyptian court on Sunday sentenced to death four members of the blacklisted Muslim Brotherhood over the killing of protesters who stormed the group's Cairo headquarters in June last year, reports PTL.

A crowd of angry protesters stormed and torched the headquarters on June 30, 2013, as millions took to the streets in Cairo and other cities demanding Islamist president Mohamed Morsi's resignation. Morsi, who belongs to the Muslim Brotherhood, was ousted just days later by then army chief and now President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi after one year in office.

A Cairo court sentenced the four men to death after finding them guilty of "killing, inciting to kill, possessing guns

and live ammunition and joining armed groups to terrorise people," a judicial official said.

Prosecutors said 12 protesters were killed when they clashed with Morsi supporters during the storming of the offices. More than 90 protesters were wounded. Sunday's sentences are preliminary and will be forwarded to the country's mufti, or top Muslim cleric, to be ratified.

Decisions on 14 other defendants in the case, including Muslim Brotherhood chief Mohamed Badie and his deputies Khairat al-Shater and Saad al-Katatni, will be made at the next hearing on February 28, the official said.

All the defendants were present in court on Sunday. Badie and his two

deputies along with Morsi are facing several other trials. Badie has already been sentenced to death in one case and to life in prison in three others.

The Muslim Brotherhood, which swept to power after the ouster of veteran leader Hosni Mubarak in early 2011, has faced a brutal government crackdown since Morsi was forced from office.

At least 1,400 people have been killed in the crackdown, thousands imprisoned and dozens sentenced to death after often speedy trials.

International rights groups have raised concerns about the court rulings, in particular mass death sentences, accusing the judiciary of taking sides and not conducting fair trials.

Historical Day

Jim Morrison was born

On this day in 1943, James Douglas "Jim" Morrison is born. He was a singer and songwriter best remembered as the lead vocalist of the Doors.

Due to his songwriting, baritone voice, wild personality and performances, he is regarded by critics and fans as one of the most iconic and influential frontmen in rock music history, and, due to the dramatic tinges surrounding his life and death, in the latter part of 20th century he was one of popular culture's most rebellious and oft-displayed icons, on a par with the likes of Che Guevara, representing generational gap and youth counterculture. He was also well known for improvising spoken word poetry passages while the band played live. Morrison was ranked number 47 on Rolling Stone's list of the "100 Greatest Singers of All Time", and number 22 on Classic Rock Magazine's "50 Greatest Singers In Rock". Ray Manzarek said that Morrison "embodied hippie counterculture rebellion..." Morrison was also known as the self-proclaimed "Lizard King" and "King of Orgasmic Rock".

Morrison developed an alcohol dependency. He died at the age of 27 in Paris, allegedly of a heroin overdose. No autopsy was performed, and the exact cause of Morrison's death is still disputed. His grave in Paris is a shrine to him, visited daily by numerous fans.

Merkel condemns Russia 'interfering' in Eastern Europe

GERMAN : German Chancellor Angela Merkel has accused Russia of interfering in the affairs of Eastern European countries seeking closer ties with the EU, reports BBC.

In an interview in Die Welt am Sonntag newspaper (in German), Mrs Merkel said Russia was "creating problems" for Moldova, Georgia and Ukraine.

Russia's violation of "the territorial integrity... of Ukraine must not be allowed to stand", she added.

Moldova, Georgia and Ukraine have signed trade deals with the EU.

Russia is suspicious of these association agreements - it is trying to draw republics which were once part of the Soviet Union into its own customs

union.

"Moldova, Georgia and Ukraine are three countries in our eastern neighbourhood that have taken sovereign decisions to sign an association agreement with the EU," Mrs Merkel told Germany's Die Welt am Sonntag.

"Russia is creating problems for all three of these countries," she said, pointing to frozen conflicts in breakaway regions like Trans-Dniester, Abkhazia and South Ossetia, as well as Russian actions in eastern Ukraine.

Last month Russian President Vladimir Putin signed a "strategic partnership" agreement with Georgia's breakaway region of Abkhazia, drawing strong criticism from Nato and the EU.

In the interview, Mrs Merkel also accused Moscow of trying to make countries in the western Balkans economically and politically dependent on Russia in order to gain influence there.

She said she was "convinced" that the "common European response to Russia's actions is correct".

The Ukraine crisis began a year ago, when then-President Viktor Yanukovich abandoned an agreement on strengthening trade ties with EU in favour of closer co-operation with Russia.

This decision sparked pro-EU protests in the capital Kiev, eventually toppling Mr Yanukovich in February.

In the weeks that followed, Russia annexed Crimea, in



Russian President Vladimir Putin with German Chancellor Angela Merkel: ties between the two countries have been strained by the Ukraine crisis. Reuters

Chokehold death protest gets violent in California

NEW YORK: Mostly peaceful protests of a grand jury's decision not to indict a white police officer in the chokehold death of an unarmed black man continued around the country, but authorities said a march in California turned violent when demonstrators smashed windows and threw bricks and rocks at police, reports AP.

A Berkeley police officer received hospital treatment after being hit with a sandbag, while another sustained minor injuries, police spokeswoman Jenn Coats said. She said several businesses were looted and damaged during the march Saturday night, and officers attempting to get the crowd to disperse used tear gas.

Some squad cars were also damaged.

Authorities did not provide further details of any injuries or arrests. "The total number of arrests and injuries is not known at this time," Coats said.

Thousands of demonstrators have protested peacefully in New York and elsewhere since the announcement Wednesday that a

grand jury declined to indict a white officer in the death of Eric Garner, a black man who gasped "I can't breathe!" while being placed in a chokehold as he was being arrested for selling loose, untaxed cigarettes. The decision closely followed a Ferguson, Missouri, grand jury's choice not to indict a white officer in the fatal shooting of Michael Brown, an unarmed black 18-year-old.

The scope of the demonstrations and the lack of violence were moving to Garner's mother and widow, they said Saturday.

"It is just so awesome to see how the crowds are out there," said Eric Garner's mother, Gwen Carr, who added that she ended up stuck in her car after protests shut down traffic.

"I was just so proud of that crowd," Carr said. "It just warmed my heart."

Garner's widow, Esaw Garner, said she saw demonstrators from her apartment window and told her son, "Look at all the love that your father's getting."

SUV in boy's death had anti-Muslim message

KANSAS CITY: An SUV involved in the death of a Missouri teenager outside a Somali community center had an anti-Muslim message displayed in its rear window at the time of the crash, Kansas City police confirmed Saturday, reports UNB.

Authorities say 34-year-old Ahmed H. Aden deliberately ran the boy over and have charged him with murder in a case that the FBI is investigating as a potential hate crime. Abdisamad Sheikh-Hussein, 15, died Thursday after his legs were nearly severed in the crash.

Kansas City police spokesman Darin Snapp told The Associated Press in an email that the SUV had been seen in the area by patrol officers in October with a message that compared the Quran to the Ebola virus.

Hundreds of people came to Sheikh-Hussein's funeral Saturday at the Islamic Society of Greater Kansas City.

Friends said Sheikh-Hussein had been going to play basketball when he was run down so violently that a witness reported seeing the teen "fly through the air," according to a probable cause statement.

Protests turn violent in 2 Greek cities

ATHENS, Greece : A march by thousands of people through central Athens to mark the anniversary of the fatal police shooting of an unarmed teenager quickly turned violent Saturday, as

marchers damaged storefronts and bus stations and set fire to clothes looted from a shop, reports Reuters.

Clashes continued late into the night in the neighborhood of Exarchia, a haven for extreme leftists and anarchists, with youths ambushing police forces with firebombs and rocks thrown from balconies. Police said they detained 211 people.

Clashes also broke out between police and demonstrators marching in the northern city of Thessaloniki. Police fired tear gas and stun grenades after a crowd beat up two plainclothes policemen.

The marches were commemorating the Dec. 6, 2008, police killing of 15-year-old Alexandros Grigoropoulos in the capital, which led to two weeks of the most violent rioting Greece had seen in decades. Grigoropoulos and friends were in an argument with two police officers when one officer went to his patrol car, retrieved his gun and shot

the youth. Grigoropoulos' killer, police officer Epaminondas Korkoneas, is serving a life sentence.

On Saturday, about 5,000 people marched in Athens, passing the Greek Parliament and heading toward the spot where Grigoropoulos was killed, police said. At one point, people broke into a Zara clothes shop, took racks of clothes into the street and burned them. The clashes were soon confined to Exarchia neighborhood.

Police cordoned off the neighborhood's central square, firing tear gas and pepper spray.

The marches came at a time when nearly nightly violent protests are being held by supporters of one of Grigoropoulos' friends, jailed anarchist and convicted bank robber Nikos Romanos, 21. He was present when Grigoropoulos was killed and is now on a hunger strike, demanding prison leave to attend lectures after he passed university entrance exams.



A police water cannon stands by as riot police try to avoid petrol bombs during a protest in the Athens neighborhood of Exarchia, a haven for extreme leftists and anarchists, on Saturday, Dec. 6, 2014. A march through central Athens to mark the sixth anniversary of the fatal police shooting of an unarmed teenager quickly turned violent Saturday, as marchers damaged store fronts and bus stations, and set fire to clothes looted from a shop. MSN

Spot Light News

Attack on police station in Iraq kills 9 people

BAGHDAD: Officials in Iraq say militants have attacked a police station in a village north of Baghdad, killing nine people, reports UNB.

A police officer says the attack at dawn Sunday started with a suicide car bombing in the village of al-Salman outside the town of Tarmiyah, followed by an assault by armed militants. He said the attack killed five police officers and four civilians and wounded 11 people. Tarmiyah is about 50 kilometers (30 miles) north of Baghdad.

Nigeria seizes aircraft, weapons bound for Chad

KANO: Nigeria's airport authority and security officials say they have seized an aircraft loaded with at least one military helicopter and heavy weapons that made an unscheduled landing at Kano airport in northern Nigeria, reports UNB.

Security agents said they detained five Ukrainian crew members who said the plane was flying from Bangui in Central African Republic, to N'Djamena, the capital of Chad. Kano is far northwest of that air route.

Washington Post reporter Jason Rezaian charged by Iran court

A Washington Post reporter who has been detained in Iran for more than four months has been formally charged.

However the nature of the charges was not clear to those in the Tehran court, the Washington Post reported.

Iranian-US citizen Jason Rezaian, 38, and his Iranian wife Yeganeh Salehi, were taken into custody in July.

US 'unaware' hostage Pierre Korkie was with Luke Somers

US special forces who tried to rescue photojournalist Luke Somers from al-Qaeda in Yemen were not aware of the identity of the other hostage held with him, a US official has told the BBC.

Both South African teacher Pierre Korkie and Mr Somers were shot by the militants during the raid, US officials say, and died as a result.

A charity working with Mr Korkie said he was to have been freed on Sunday.

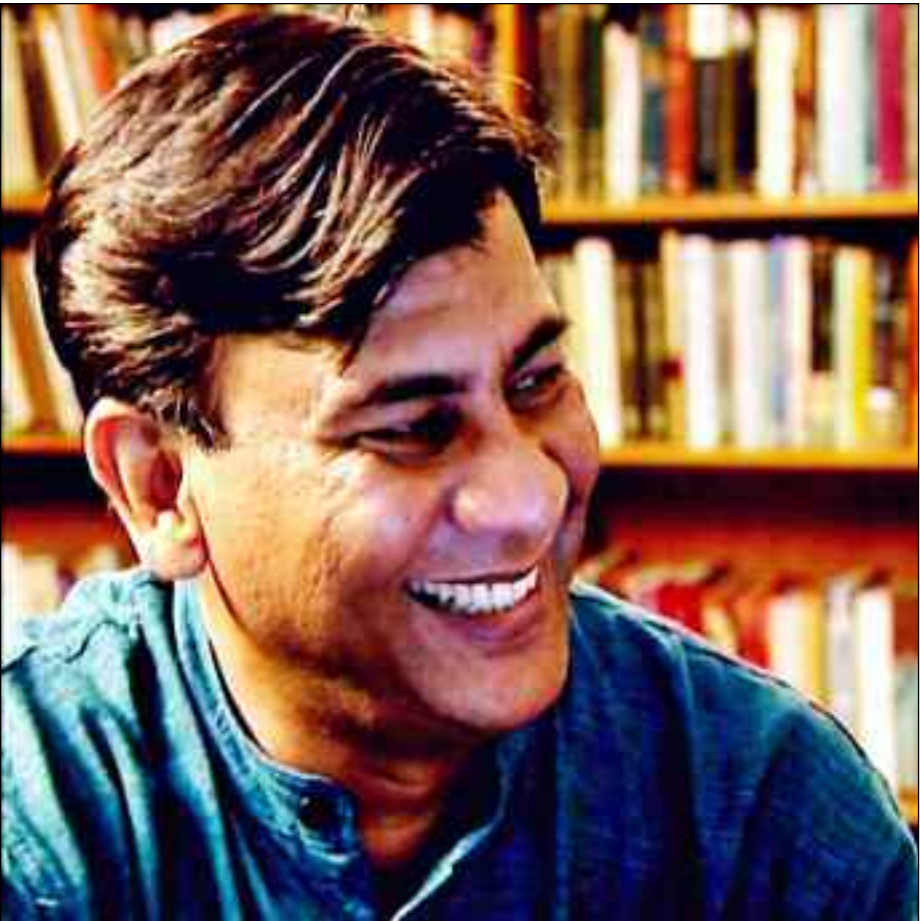
New massacre leaves 14 dead in eastern DR Congo: officials

GOMA, DR Congo: An overnight attack by suspected Ugandan rebels in the area of Beni in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo has left 14 people dead, authorities said Sunday. The attack in the village of Oicha in North Kivu province was confirmed by a military spokesman and a local official. More than 200 people have been killed in a series of massacres in Beni and the surrounding area blamed on the Allied Democratic Forces and National Army for the Liberation of Uganda (ADF-NALU).

Magnitude 6.0 quake hits east of Indonesia

NEW YORK: The U.S. Geological Survey says a magnitude 6.0 under-water quake has struck off east Indonesia, but no tsunami warnings have been posted. U.S.G.S. said the quake occurred early Sunday local time (2205 GMT Saturday) with its epicenter 138 miles (222 kilometers) north-northwest of Samulaki in Indonesia's eastern Maluku province.

U.S.G.S. says the quake's depth was measured at 73 miles (117 kilometers).



Tareque Masud Festival 2014 to be held

Entertainment Desk

On the occasion of Tareque Masud's 58th birthday on December 6, the second annual Tareque Masud Festival will be held on December 12 and 13 at the National Theatre Auditorium of the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy in the capital.

The untimely death of the celebrated film maker is mourned each year by fans and friends, but his birthday is celebrated in a festive manner.

A two-day festival has been arranged with vibrant and exclusive events by the Tareque Masud Memorial Trust. The theme of this year's festival is "Amar Mukti, Amar Juddho" [My Freedom, My Fight].

On the opening day, Bangla will give a live

performance and a music video of the band's song "Kamar hatbazar" will be unveiled. The first screening of "Remembering Runway," a documentary on the making of Tareque's final film "Runway," will be held at 4:30pm.

The unveiling of the DVD of Tareque's first film, "Adam Surat," internationally released as "Inner Strength," a documentary on the Bangladeshi painter SM Sultan, will take place at 6pm.

On the second day, Tareque's songs will be performed at 3pm followed by the Tareque Masud Memorial Lecture which will be given by poet and journalist Sajjad Sharif. The festival is being jointly organised by Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, the Bengal Foundation, Pathshala and the Moviya Film Society.

Scarlett Johansson, Jonah Hill, Karen O Sing Dizzying Set List at Vice Anniversary Party

Entertainment Desk

To celebrate its twentieth year, Vice rented out the Brooklyn Navy Yard's Duggal Greenhouse on Friday night for the kind of hybrid, manic, alien-like show that only the media brand can conjure. It was concert roulette for three straight hours, and the bearded, beanie-wearing Brooklynites in attendance soaked it right up.

Just before 11 p.m., the house band - Yeah Yeah Yeahs' Nick Zinner, Miike Snow's Andrew Wyatt, Gorillaz's Pauli PSM and The Raconteurs' Jack Lawrence - took the stage with "semi-official emcee and host" Andrew WK, who performed his hit "Party Hard" and offered the only real speech of the night: "Welcome to Vice's 20th anniversary celebration. Perhaps you've heard, there are several supergroups, surprise performers, just for you. It's gonna be crazy but it's gonna be fun. There will be covers, originals, spontaneous orgasms - enjoy yourselves!"



Pneumonia-struck Dilip Kumar 'fine now'

Entertainment Desk

Veteran actor Dilip Kumar, who was hospitalised Saturday night at Lilavati Hospital & Research Centre has, has been diagnosed with pneumonia.

His close family friend Udaya Tara Nayar says he is not in the ICU and is responding to the treatment. Udaya Tara Nayar told IANS: "He is fine right now and he is on antibiotics. He was diagnosed with pneumonia but he has been responding to the treatment very well. He is in the normal ward and not in the ICU. He also had his breakfast and is recovering."

Nayar is also the compiler of the 91-year-old actor's autobiography titled "The Substance and the Shadow".



Shenaz Treasurywala didn't want to do 'bad roles'

Entertainment Desk

Shenaz Treasurywala, who last featured in the 2011 Bollywood sex comedy "Delhi Belly", will now be seen in "Main Aur Mr. Right" and the actress says bad roles kept her away from the big screen for so long.

Asked why she took so long to do a film post "Delhi Belly", she said: "Very bad roles were coming my way and I didn't want to do them. Hence, I was doing small films like 'Delhi Belly' where though the footage wasn't long, the role was good".

The "Ishq Vishk" actress was busy doing a US TV show called "One Life to Live" and a travel show titled "Culture Shock".

"Currently, I am doing a show in the US called 'Brown Nation' in which I am representing India and I am also acting in a show for Comedy Central in the US. I got back to Hindi films when I got 'Main Aur Mr. Right', which is a new, fresh and exciting romantic comedy," said the former video jockey.

Directed by Aadeeb Rasis, the film is slated for Dec 12 release.

Talking about her role in the film, she said: "I play Aliya, a perfectionist who is waiting for her Mr. Right to complement her. She meets Sukhi (played by Barun Sobti), a struggling actor with a reckless personality ... and the film explores the complex dynamics of their relationship in a humorous way. I try to make Sukhi the perfect guy for myself."



'Mockingjay' easily tops weak Friday box office

Entertainment Desk

The Hunger Games: Mockingjay - Part 1 held on to first place on a quiet Friday at the box office. The penultimate chapter in the Hunger Games franchise added \$6.56 million, which brings its total to \$242.7 million. In comparison, Catching Fire had earned \$317.4 million through the same point last year. For the weekend, look for Mockingjay to wind up with \$21 to \$23 million.

Horrible Bosses 2 took second place with \$2.74 million. That's off 56 percent from last Friday, which is a good hold for the post-Thanksgiving weekend (the rest of the Top Five all dropped at least 67 percent). Still, the Bosses sequel has barely cracked \$30 million, which is disappointing.

Penguins of Madagascar plummeted 77 percent to \$2.38 million on Friday. For the weekend, it's poised to earn \$10 to \$11 million, and is now on track to fall short of \$100 million total. Interstellar added \$2.2 million, which brings its total to \$152.9 million. Big Hero 6 rounded out the Top Five with \$1.81 million.



Horoscope

Aries (March 21 - April 19)

Although you might be stumped concerning a joint financial issue that may have you in a bind, don't despair. By midweek you could get some workable answers, perhaps from an expert or family member with a brainstorm. You might also hear good news concerning a bonus or pay raise. Thanksgiving Day looks to be a grand occasion at your place, with plenty of warmth and family magic. By the weekend you might feel like escaping the mad rush and doing something a little bit different.

Taurus (April 20 - May 20)

A communication blip early on could cause delays or general misunderstandings that might require patience to resolve. Yet there could also be good news from a friend, partner, or love interest that gives you something to smile about. Conversation flows midweek, and the time may be perfect for discussing collaboration or future plans with someone. Romance looks pretty hot, too, with plenty of options for dating and chances to have fun. Whether you're with a partner or love interest, the week ahead could be pleasantly memorable!

Gemini (May 21 - June 20)

On the whole you'll probably enjoy the week ahead. It isn't too taxing, although you might have to deal with delays at work on Monday. Aside from this, there may be good news associated with a plan or idea that could give you more options and leeway in the future. Thanksgiving Day could be very busy but rewarding, especially as it seems you could be hosting the meal and after-party. There's also a chance of a surprise meeting that might have sparkling romantic potential.

Cancer (June 21 - July 22)

This could be an upbeat week in which you can make progress with a budding romance or new love interest. Try not to worry if a communication blip starts the week on the wrong note. This should be remedied by Wednesday. In fact, once you get over the initial hurdle, you could find yourself getting along better than ever. Long-term relationships show renewed sweetness and mutual support. Later, expect the unexpected where your job or career direction is concerned. If an opportunity leaps at you from out of the blue, take it.

Leo (July 23 - August 22)

Personal financial matters could be up and down, mainly because you might have more bills to attend to as well as the opportunity to spend more. It may also be hard early on to get through to someone on the home front, but things can improve with perseverance. Listening to your intuition may help you take appropriate action. You could make a breakthrough in your relationship by Wednesday, just in time for Thanksgiving. Romantic opportunities could be yours when you move outside your comfort zone.

Virgo (August 23 - September 22)

The start of the week has a businesslike quality, especially if you're discussing urgent matters. If you're too stubborn, you could spoil a potentially good deal, whereas flexibility could help seal it. Jupiter continues to light up your social zone. Some lovely aspects from midweek may bring a chance to make some new and exciting friends or meet with someone who is very much on your wavelength. Entertaining at home could go well on Thanksgiving, but expect a surprise visit a few days later.

Libra (September 23 - October 22)

A cash-flow issue may halt spending on Monday, so be sure to have extra money with you in case of an emergency. The financial flow increases as the week moves along. A lovely connection suggests that good news on the job front may coincide with a small pay raise or even a bonus. This is a positive focus for Thanksgiving Day, which may bring your family together in the spirit of friendship and understanding. Watch out for an unexpected offer that could be hard to resist!

Scorpio (October 23 - November 21)

Stubbornness may give way to happier feelings as the week progresses. Don't let personal problems spoil what could be a lovely few days. An overseas link or someone from far away could get in touch, leaving you feeling positive and upbeat. Your social life seems quite vibrant lately as Mars continues to stir things up in this area. With Thanksgiving showing up this week and plenty of invitations on the way, try not to burn the candle at both ends. Do enjoy yourself.

Sagittarius (November 22 - December 21)

The Sun in your sign may give you a vital boost, putting you in the mood for fun and games. Watch out for a slip of the tongue early on, as you could say something that causes a friend, partner, or love interest some embarrassment. Yet your intuition is generally on target over the coming days and may be useful if you're facing an unusual or challenging situation. A sparkly influence over the weekend reveals that an unexpected meeting could be the catalyst for a fun date.

Capricorn (December 22 - January 19)

An intense conversation with a friend could result in a done deal, especially as you're likely to be on the same wavelength. Your social life could bring some positive folks your way who may be able to help you with a personal goal or turn out to be supportive friends long into the future. Mixing and mingling is the way to go, especially around midweek on Thanksgiving, when doing a good deed for another may bring benefits your way.

Aquarius (January 20 - February 18)

You could experience delays in your career or with an important goal, but don't despair. Sometimes this is fate playing its hand. By midweek you could be on a roll, with good news or perhaps an interesting offer coming your way. You seem very work oriented, but with the Sun in your social zone, you can enjoy yourself if you're willing to take some time out. An unexpected phone call or message could boost your weekend and give you something to look forward to.

Pisces (February 19 - March 20)

If you're traveling, you may have to put up with a few minor delays early on, but apart from that, Thanksgiving week should go off like a dream. Whether you're playing host at your place or going to someone else's, it looks like you could have a lot of fun. However, the temptation to splurge over the weekend may mean you're willing to spend more than you have in order to snap up the bargains. Try to budget for that early festive shopping spree.



Bangladesh U-21 hockey players celebrate at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium after clinching champion trophy of the Junior AHF Cup group league Sunday.

Hockey : Bangladesh emerge unbeaten champion in AHF Cup

Sports Desk

DHAKA: Bangladesh clinched unbeaten title of the Junior AHF Cup Hockey Tournament when they dumped visiting Oman by 4-0 goals in final held on Sunday at the Moulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium in the city, reports BSS.

In the day's match Korshed struck twice while Ashraful and Sarwar netted one goal each for the youth Bangladesh team, which led the first half by 2-0 goals.

Khorshed opened an account for Bangladesh in the 15th minute converting a penalty corner after he received a well-judged pass from Sarwar. Ashraful doubled the lead for Bangladesh also converting a penalty corner in the 23rd minute after capitalizing on a pass from Khorshed.

After the lemon break, Khorshed scored his second and third for his team in the 37th minute again from a penalty corner off a pass from Sarwar while Sarwar sealed the victory for Bangladesh scoring the fourth and last goal in the

50th minute.

Bangladesh entire dominated the whole proceeding and notched their deserving victory while Oman was totally off-colored.

The boys in red and green already confirmed their next round of the tournament that will be held on June next year in Malaysia.

Earlier, in the day's another place-deciding match, Chinese Taipei finished third in the tournament bearing Sri Lanka by 6-2 goals held at the same venue.

Record-breaking Ronaldo leads Real to new hights

Sports Desk

MADRID: Cristiano Ronaldo netted a record 23rd hat-trick in La Liga and his 200th goal in the Spanish top flight as Real Madrid equalled a Spanish record of 18 consecutive wins in all competitions with a 3-0 win over Celta Vigo on Saturday, reports AFP/BSS.

Ronaldo passes Telmo Zarra, whose record as La Liga's all-time top goalscorer was recently usurped by Lionel Messi, and Madrid legend Alfredo di Stefano

who both scored 22 hat-tricks to reach his double century of La Liga goals in just 179 games.

Carlo Ancelotti's men have now matched the winning run record set by Frank Rijkaard's Barcelona side in the 2005/06 season, and have the chance to go one better at home to Ludogorets in the Champions League on Tuesday.

Ronaldo rolled home a contentious penalty nine minutes before half-time after referee Alberto Undiano

Mallenco ruled that Jonny Castro had pulled down the World Player of the Year as he tried to latch onto a cross before smashing home a loose ball inside the area midway through the second-half.

The Portugal captain then sealed his latest record mark when he converted Marcelo's cross at the far post nine minutes from time.

Champions Atletico Madrid enjoyed a comfortable 2-0 win at Elche and remain four points

behind their city rivals in the table.

Jose Gimenez fired them in front with his first goal for the club after good work from Koke and Arda Turan early on.

Eight minutes after the restart Atletico made the game safe when captain Gabi won possession just inside the Elche half and clipped a delightful ball over the top for Mario Mandzukic, whose near post effort surprised Przemyslaw Tyton in the home side's goal.



Record-breaking Ronaldo leads Real to new hights.

AP



Kumar Sangakkara withstood a spirited England display.

Cool Mathews steers Sri Lanka home

Sports Desk

Sri Lanka : Sri Lanka regained their two-match advantage in the one-day series although were pushed closer that appeared likely for most of the chase before getting home with two balls to spare. The pursuit was controlled, for the most part, by Kumar Sangakkara's 86 but it needed another steely contribution from Angelo Mathews to ensure against any late slips, reports Cricinfo.

Nothing seemed more certain than Sangakkara would seal victory with his 20th ODI hundred, but on 86 he found deep cover from a short delivery by Chris Jordan and could barely come to terms with the need to walk off.

So instead it was Mathews and Lahiru Thirimanne who crossed the winning line with a stand of 53, never flinching when the asking rate briefly went above seven although Mathews was dropped at third man by Alex Hales with 25 needed.

Given that England managed to squeeze the chase into the final over, they will rue the 12 wides which continued a theme from the series. England now need to win the three remaining games, two in Pallekele and one more back at the Premadasa, if they are to take the series although with an eye to the future there were a couple of performances that meant it was not a completely forlorn day for them. James Taylor, playing just his third ODI and first against anyone other than Ireland, top-scored with well-crafted 90 before cramp got the better of him and Eoin Morgan, the stand-in captain for the day, made his first ODI fifty since January with 62 off 47 balls as the rest of England's middle and lower order, losing 7 for 94, frittered away earlier good work.

Cricinfo

News in Brief



Nasir secures victory for Abahani in DPDCL

Sports Desk

DHAKA: An all-round performance by Nasir Hossain saw Abahani Limited to record 69-run victory over Brothers Union Club in their ninth round match of the Walton Dhaka Premier Division Cricket League (DPDCL) held on Sunday at the Khan Shaheb Osman Ali Stadium in Fatullah. Put to bat first by Brothers Union, Abahani Limited managed to score a small total of 191 for 9 from their allotted 42 overs due to fog. In reply, Brothers Union Club found the chase very stiff and dismissed at 122 in 41.2 overs. Nasir Hossain of Abahani Limited was named the player of the match for his all-round performance in the match.



Pakistan's Hafeez suspended over bowling action - ICC

Sports Desk

DUBAI: All-rounder Mohammad Hafeez was suspended for an illegal bowling action the International Cricket Council said Sunday, becoming the second Pakistan player after Saeed Ajmal to face sanction in the past three months.

Hafeez, 34, had his action reported during the first Test against New Zealand in Abu Dhabi last month. "The ICC confirmed that an independent analysis has found the bowling action of Pakistan's Hafeez to be illegal and, as such, the off-spinner has been suspended from bowling in international cricket with immediate effect," the ICC said.

The analysis revealed that all his deliveries exceeded the 15 degrees level of tolerance permitted under the regulations, the ICC added.



British number one wants to be best in the world

Sports Desk

British number one Heather Watson says she is aiming to become the number one tennis player in the world. The 22-year-old from Guernsey ended the season ranked 49th after suffering glandular fever last year when she had reached a career-high 39 in the world. Watson won two singles and two doubles events this year and reached the second round at Wimbledon and the French Open.

"I definitely want to go all the way. I wouldn't be playing if I didn't think I could," she told BBC Radio Guernsey. "I'm not thinking about number one right now. I set my mini goals, but I believe in myself, my team believes in me and we're doing everything we can to get there."

Crosswords

Quiz No-577



Answers of the Quiz No-578



DOWN

1. Legal wrong
2. Pearly-shelled mussel
3. Conjuring up the dead
4. Disgraced
5. Type of dog
6. Applications
7. Blockheads
8. Outcast
9. Deep purplish red
10. Component of urine
11. Care for
12. Makes lace
15. Slowly, in music
21. Go backpacking
23. Not low
25. An indefinite period
27. Hindu princess
28. Critical
29. Zero
31. Unable to read
32. What's happening
34. Ear of corn
36. Border
39. Detachable container
40. Auspices
43. Spiral
44. The original matter (cosmology)
46. Annoying insect
47. Emissaries
49. Excrete
50. Giggles
53. Make fun of
55. Kettles
56. Decorative case
57. Small brook
58. Anger
60. Buttocks
61. Drunkards
64. Father
- Attraction
62. Historical periods

ACROSS

1. Bluffin
5. A mixture of cellulose fibers
9. Mongrel
13. 1 1 1 1 1 4
14. Normal
16. District
17. Wealthy
18. Style
19. Lady's escort
20. Synagogue
22. Youth with shaved heads
24. Leave out
26. Lustrous fabric
27. A small fireproof dish
30. Immobilize
33. Scholarly
35. Bisection
37. Religious sister
38. Run away to wed
41. Directed
42. Fidgety
45. Flabbergasting
48. Shoelace hole
51. Kitchen set
52. On the up and up
54. Wise one
55. Circumference
59. Waterproofed canvases
62. Ear-related
63. Sedate
65. Tropical tuber
66. A city in western Russia
67. Electrical pioneer
68. French for "State"
69. Window ledge
70. Marsh plant
71. Collections



Renowned root excavating researcher and Managing Director of Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited Mohammad Abdul Mannan received the 'Nawab Bahadur Nawab Ali Chowdhury National Award 2014' for his outstanding contributions to research on Bangladeshi History and Heritage. Shri Biren Shikder, MP, State Minister for Youth and Sports handed over the award to him at a function at Nawab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban, University of Dhaka on Friday.

Buckwheat panic' grips Russians as economic sanctions bite

MOSCOW: With its warm, fluffy brown grains, buckwheat is the ultimate comfort food for Russians and as sanctions hit home, it is flying off the shelves in a shopping frenzy dubbed the "buckwheat panic".

Hard-hit by falling oil prices and Western economic sanctions imposed over

the Kremlin's role in the Ukrainian crisis, Russia is seeing a catastrophic depreciation of the ruble and steep inflation.

But while Russians grumble about the rising price of chicken, cheese or sausage, it was only when rumours spread of buckwheat supplies running low that shoppers dashed out to fill their trolleys.

Buckwheat "is not just a food, it is a national idea," Russia's leading business daily, Vedomosti, wrote recently in an editorial.

While in the West buckwheat is more seen as a trendy food for the health conscious, in Russia it is a traditional staple, predating potatoes.

The cereal, which originates from India and Nepal, was first introduced to the Russians in the 13th century by the Mongol invaders. It was cultivated by Byzantine monks, leading to its name in Russian of "grechka," which sounds like Greek.

Buckwheat can be eaten at any meal in Russia, whether simmered with milk as a porridge for breakfast, served with chopped liver for lunch, or even stuffed

inside a roast piglet at a special dinner.

It is ubiquitous in the cafeterias of Russian schools and kindergartens, hospitals, military barracks and prisons.

This autumn as Russians began to feel the effects of sanctions and the retaliatory embargo on most Western foods ordered by President Vladimir

Putin, news spread of a low harvest in Russia's buckwheat heartland-the Altai region in Siberia.

"In Moscow, people see a television news report about a buckwheat crisis

in Penza", a city 600 kilometres (350 miles) away, and "in just four days they buy up buckwheat stocks that would normally be enough for two months," the Moskovsky Komsomolets daily wrote.

One supermarket chain in the northwestern city of Saint Petersburg even introduced a five-pack limit for buckwheat purchases.

Even though buckwheat is homegrown and so little affected by sanctions or the falling ruble, the price of a packet of buckwheat rose from around 30

rubles to 50 rubles (\$0.93) in Moscow and doubled in some regions. "People store up on buckwheat which can be kept for a long time because they do not know what to expect from the (Western) sanctions," said Galina, a trader at a Saint Petersburg food

market.

There have been "buckwheat crises" in the past, most recently sparked by a

2010 drought, said Alexei Makarkin, a political analyst with the Centre for

Political Technologies.

But what is different now is that "there is no question of a real shortage of buckwheat," said Dmitry Rylko of the Institute for Agricultural Market Studies.

While initially there was no problem with supplies, "excessive demand sparked" the buckwheat crisis, said Alexey Alexeyenko, a senior official at Russia's food safety agency, Rosselkhoz nadzor. Russian media called the phenomenon "hysteria" or even "buckwheat psychosis."

A survey conducted in late November by the Levada Center pollster found that almost a third of the Russians had stocked up on buckwheat in recent weeks.

Buckwheat stockpiling is more a symbol of troubled times, Rylko said, calling it "a sacred food for Russians that disappears at the onset of any signs of crisis." The Kremlin's retaliatory embargo banning Western food imports has hit Russian consumers hard.

Prices have gone up 30 to 40 percent for basic foods such as eggs, pork, chicken, frozen fish and sausage since the counter sanctions were imposed.

IBBL MD gets Nawab Ali Chowdhury award

Business Desk

DHAKA: Renowned root excavating researcher and Managing Director of Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited Mohammad Abdul Mannan received the 'Nawab Bahadur Nawab Ali Chowdhury National Award 2014' for his outstanding contributions to research on Bangladeshi History and Heritage. Shri Biren Shikder, MP, State Minister for Youth and Sports handed over the award to him at a function at Nawab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban, University of Dhaka on 5 December 2014. Zunaid Ahmed Palak, MP, State Minister for Information and Communication Technology, Professor Dr. AAMS Arefin Siddique, Vice Chancellor, University of Dhaka, Professor Dr. Emajuddin Ahmed, former Vice Chancellor of the University along with other guests were present on the occasion organised by the Nawab Bahadur Syed Nawab Ali-Hasan Ali Foundation.

France, Italy reforms insufficient : Merkel

BERLIN : Reforms undertaken by France and Italy are insufficient, German Chancellor Angela Merkel said in an interview published Sunday, a week after the two countries won more time from the EU to put their public finances in order, reports AFP/BSS. The European Commission has "drawn up a calendar according to which France and Italy are due to present additional measures", Merkel told newspaper Die Welt in an interview. "That's justified because both countries are in the process of carrying out reforms," she said. "But the Commission has also said in a clear manner that what is on the table to date

is still insufficient. That's something that I agree with," she said, according to extracts released in advance by the newspaper. Last month, the EU gave France-along with fellow deficit laggards Italy and Belgium-an extra three months to fix their budgets but warned they would still incur penalties if they failed to curb spending. The European Commission, the EU's executive arm, singled out France for special criticism, saying it had made "limited progress" in reducing fiscal red ink. France is set for a deficit of more than 4 percent of GDP in 2015, above the EU ceiling of three percent.

Sri Lanka cuts energy prices ahead of polls

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka slashed cooking gas prices on Sunday just one day after the cost of diesel and petrol was also cut ahead of next month's presidential election. The ministry of internal trade said it was reducing the price of a standard cylinder of gas used for cooking by 11.6 percent to 1,896 rupees (\$14.50) from Sunday, the second such cut in recent months. The loss-making state-run Ceylon Petroleum Corporation

announced on Saturday it was cutting diesel and gasoline prices by nearly five percent, also the second recent reduction. It denied the move was an election sweetener instructed by President Mahinda Rajapakse's government, insisting the cut was connected to falling global oil prices. The reduction comes despite the fact that the corporation has accumulated losses of 240 billion rupees (\$1.84

billion), according to company officials. Rajapakse, who is also finance minister, is seeking reelection for an unprecedented third term on January 8. But he faces a strong challenge from his former health minister, Maithripala Sirisena, who defected to the main opposition party last month. While Rajapakse remains generally popular with voters from the Sinhalese majority.



Khalid Rahim, Chairman of the Committee presided over the meeting along with others.

Rate cut calls grow as Australian economy falters

SYDNEY: Pressure is building on Australia's central bank to cut interest rates from their record lows as growth in the resources-driven economy, already faltering on the back of China's slowdown, takes a further hit, reports AP.

The Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) has repeatedly said it will continue to maintain a "period of stability in interest rates", but softening GDP growth figures last week sparked a flurry of economists forecasting further monetary policy easing.

That would take the cash rate below 2.5 percent, where it has been for 16 months.

"The GDP read... is creating a very dark shadow over the state of the Australian economy with income growth now in recession," IG markets strategist Evan Lucas said.

The data showed the economy expanded by just 0.3 percent in the third-quarter, far below consensus estimates of 0.7 percent, to take the annual growth rate to a below-trend 2.7 percent. "The pressure on growth in 2015 is ratcheting up as key commodities remain in bear markets and if housing cools, this will only accelerate," added Lucas.

The slowdown in China, Australia's largest trading partner, is already weighing on the resources sector and hurting the wider economy.

Continuing fears about the health of the world's second-largest economy, which helped fuel Australia's unprecedented mining investment boom, has been reflected in the local dollar's high sensitivity to fluctuating Chinese data. Just last week, the exchange rate slumped to a fresh four-year low after weak manufacturing figures raised concerns about China's growth outlook.

The new forecasts are in part driven by a plunge in commodity prices and the lack of a similar decline in the exchange rate to soften the blow.

Lower prices, particularly for Australia's biggest export iron ore, were also eroding the national income, Treasurer Joe Hockey said.

The mining investment boom has helped Australia avoid recession for more than two decades, but the rebalancing towards non-resources led growth has been uneven.

While record low interest rates have fuelled a surging housing market, consumer confidence has floundered amid tepid wages growth and following a tough federal budget in May in which the government pledged to cut back on welfare and spending.

There has also been a slower-than-expected pick-up in business investment outside the mining sector, while the unemployment rate has been rising, hitting an almost 12-year high of 6.2 percent in October.

These factors have seen Australians continue to save at near record levels and balk at taking on more debt.

"The baton change in the economy has been delayed and we are now facing the environment where mining is a lot weaker than expected because of commodity price falls globally," Macquarie Bank's head of Australian economic research James McIntyre told AFP.

Audit Committee Meeting of AALB held

Business Desk

Dhaka: The 141st meeting of Audit Committee of the Board of Directors of . Al-Arafah Islami Bank Limited was held at the Board Room of the Bank on Sunday. Khalid Rahim, Chairman of the Committee presided over the meeting. The meeting reviewed overall business performance of the Bank. Vice Chairman of the Committee Alhajj Abdus Salam, members Alhajj Md. Harun-Ar-Rashid Khan and Alhajj Niaz Ahmed were present in the meeting. Al-Arafah Islami Bank Limited mission to be a pioneer in Islami Banking in Bangladesh and contribute significantly to the growth of the national economy. Achieving the satisfaction of Almighty Allah both here & hereafter. Proliferation of Shariah Based Banking Practices. Quality financial services adopting the latest technology. Fast and efficient customer service. Maintaining high standard of business ethics. Balanced growth. Steady & competitive return on shareholders' equity. Innovative banking at a competitive price. Attract and retain quality human resources. Extending competitive compensation packages to the employees. Firm commitment to the growth of national economy. Involving more in Micro and SME financing.



Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed inaugurates Sixth International Botanical Conference 2014 at the Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban of the University of Dhaka. Dr. Hakim Mohammad Yousuf Harun Bhuiyan, Chief of Hamdard University Bangladesh receiving crest from the Chief guest. Dhaka University VC AAMS Arefin Siddique and Dr. M. Mozammel Haque, President of the Botanical Society are also present among other.



A needy person keeping himself warm with fire as he can not afford the required winter clothes. The picture was taken from north zone of Bangladesh yesterday.
Photo: Banglar Chokh

Bhutanese PM visits Square Pharma in Gazipur

DHAKA : The visiting Bhutanese Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay yesterday visited Square Pharmaceuticals in Kaliakoir, Gazipur, reports BSS.

A Bangladesh Air force helicopter carrying the Prime Minister of Bhutan and members of his entourage landed at Kaliakoir at around 11:00 am, according to our Gazipur Correspondent.

On his arrival at Kaliakoir, he was received by Deputy Commissioner, Gazipur Mohammad Nurul Islam and authorities of Square Pharmaceuticals Ltd.

Later, the high officials of the company briefed the Bhutanese Prime Minister about production, supply and quality of Square pharmaceuticals products.

The Bhutanese Premier also went round different sections of the company and saw its production. He returned Dhaka at around 1 PM ending his tour to Gazipur.

WB to provide \$ 60mn to modernise VAT administration; deal signed

DHAKA : The World Bank will provide \$ 60 million to modernise Bangladesh's value added tax (VAT) administration and to boost tax revenue, reports UNB.

An agreement to this end was signed on Sunday at ERD in city's Sher-e-Bangla Nagar area.

Economic Relations Division (ERD) Additional Secretary Kazi Shofiqul Azam and World Bank Lead Economist and Acting Country Director Salman Zaidi signed the deal on behalf of their respective sides. The credits from the International Development Association (IDA) - the arm of the World Bank Group that helps the world's poorest countries - have 40 years maturity time with a 10-year grace period, and carry a service charge of 0.75 percent.

The Washington-based lending agency is giving the fund under the VAT Improvement Programme Project which will introduce automation, including online VAT taxpayer services, and improve transparency in the VAT administration system.

The project eyes the ratio of VAT to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to increase by at least one percentage point of GDP by 2019. The VAT to GDP ratio for 2012-13 is 3.7 percent.

It will support the government to implement the new VAT law which comes into effect in 2015 and aims to provide better services and reduced administrative costs for taxpayers.

The project will include a campaign to raise awareness of the need to register and file for VAT. The project will seek to increase the number of active registered taxpayers to 85,000 within the next five years compared to around 35,000 VAT payers today.

It will introduce modern business processes and Information Technology systems as well as a more transparent service-oriented tax administration. Registration, return processing, and tax payment will become possible online. This will reduce compliance costs for taxpayers.

The project will also support the VAT administration system to become fully compliant with Bangladesh's Right to Information (RTI) Act. The introduction of vigorous Management Information System will enable the administration to detect irregularities and initiate remedial measures.

An ERD official said the project will improve taxpayer services, encourage better compliance and increase tax revenue by automating the VAT system.

MOU signed to introduce online management system on micro credit

DHAKA : Access to Information (A2I) Programme of Prime Minister's Office (PMO) yesterday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with several government organisations aiming to introduce an electronic micro credit management system to make the micro credit service easily available to the rural people, reports BSS.

The azi Programme signed the MOU with the Liberation War Affairs Ministry, Directorate of Social Service, Department of Youth Development, Directorate of Women Affairs, Directorate of Cooperatives, Bangladesh Rural Development Board, Department of Fisheries, Directorate of Livestock and Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation at the PMO here, a press release said

Project Director of the azi programme Kabir Bin Anwar, Director General of Directorate of Cooperatives Mohammad Saidur Rahman and senior officials of MOU signatory organizations, among others, were present on the occasion.

Under the MOU, the azi programme will develop the electronic micro credit management system and it will carry out proof of concept at one district of the country. Later, all the respective organizations will implement the system across the country.

Dispute over land leads to fratricide in Bhola

BHOLA : A man was beaten to death allegedly by his elder brother following a quarrel over a land-related dispute at Gutpo Munshi village in Sadar upazila on Saturday morning, reports UNB.

The deceased was identified as Babul Palaoan, 38, a resident of the village.

Quoting family members, police said there had been a longstanding dispute over the ownership of a piece of land between Babul and his elder brother Siraj Palaoan.

They locked into an altercation over the issue around 10:00 am.

At one stage, Siraj stabbed Babul indiscriminately, leaving him dead on the spot. Siraj went into hiding after the incident.

On information, police recovered the body and sent it to Sadar Hospital morgue for an autopsy.

Road to Victory

From Page-01

In Washington D C the US president's assistant for national security affairs, Henry Kissinger, briefed the US president that the victory of the "pro-Soviet forces in East Pakistan would lead to formation of a Soviet satellite state. And that they would not show any respect to us."

The lives of the people of Bangladesh were not important for the US, it was their honor, which was at stake.

It was decided to dispatch the Seventh Fleet from Tonkin Bay in Thailand to the Bay of Bengal in support of the Pakistani forces.

Meanwhile, the British in a policy statement on the day to the US government said that the "emergence of Bangladesh was inevitable."

Meanwhile, aircrafts from the Indian aircraft carrier INS Vikrant stationed in the Bay of Bengal flew to hit installations in Chittagong, Khulna, Mongla, Patuakhali and Barisal.

It also flew sorties over the Chittagong Hill Tracts and provided support to the ground forces in areas where conventional air support was not possible. For the people of Bangladesh the whole day was spent in suspense as people waited anxiously for news about the surrender.

There were also fears that the Pakistan army would make a last-ditch stand on Dhaka, like Stalingrad during World War II, causing heavy damage to life and property.

The citizenry prepared for the worst case scenario and once again people started moving out of Dhaka for the safety of villages.

French Annual Gala Evening held in city

DHAKA : The 'French Annual Gala Evening-2014' was held at Radisson Blu Water Garden Hotel in the city on Saturday, reports BSS.

The France-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCIFB) organised the function. The chamber body has been organising the event annually since 1997 to celebrate and present the culture of both France and Bangladesh.

A great musical performance by renowned French artist Tab followed by 'Rabindra Sangeet' songs by Adity Mohsin and a dance performance by Warda Rihab captivated the audience during the event.

Tarek Elba, President of CCIFB and also the CEO of Lafarge Surma Cement Ltd; Bernard Regembal, Consul of the French Embassy; Pierre Lignot, Trade Commissioner of the French Trade Commission in India and also the Regional Head of Ubifrance; and Rifat Rashid, Director of CCIFB, along with other distinguished guests were present at the event.

Lafarge Surma Cement was the main sponsor of the event. The event was also co-sponsored by Alcatel Lucent, Bangladesh General Insurance Company Ltd, Knit Concern Group, Spie Oil and Gas Services (Thailand) Ltd, Aamra, Dana Group,

Energypac, Paragon Group, Total & Stand Tall or Naught.

Formed in 1996, the CCIFB is the first European joint chamber of commerce in Bangladesh. Its primary objective is to build bridges between the French and Bangladeshi companies. CCIFB's role as matchmaker has developed over the years particularly after being chosen as the privileged partner of Ubifrance, according to a press release.

DoE fines 5 establishments Tk 23 lakh

DHAKA : Department of Environment on Sunday fined four factories and a hospital Tk 23 lakh for polluting environment in Jessore, Gazipur and Narayaganj, reports UNB.

DoE director (monitoring and enforcement) Md Alamgir awarded the punishment to the authorities of the establishments following separate hearings held at the headquarters of the department in the capital.

Three factories at Tongi in Gazipur and one factory at Fatulla in Narayanganj were fined for not having DoE clearance certificate and not setting up effluent treatment plants (ETPs).

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD

Road Division, Rangpur.

Tel No. 0521-63655, Fax: 0521-63430, E-mail: eeran@rhd.gov.bd

e-Tender Notice (Open Tendering Method)

Memo no. 3351

Date : 07-12-2014.

This is to notify all concerned that the following tender have been published through e-GP portal

ID & Package No.	Package Description	Publishing Date Closing Date
15192 e-GP-13/RHD/EE/Ran g/2014-15	Executive Engineer, RHD, Rangpur's Residence Repair & Renovation work Road under Road Division Rangpur During FY 2014-15.	04-Dec.-2014. 12.00 Noon 24-Dec.-2014. 11.00 AM
15214 e-GP-14/RHD/EE/Ran g/2014-15	Repair & Renovation work of RHD Sarak Bhaban, Dhap. Rangpur Office Building under Road Division Rangpur during FY 2014-15.	04-Dec.-2014. 12.00 Noon 24-Dec.-2014. 11.00 AM

The interested Firms/persons may visit the web site (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) to get the details of the Tender.

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP system Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Md. Abdullah Al Mamun

ID no. 000414

Executive Engineer, RHD

Road Division, Rangpur.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Chief Engineer

Health Engineering Department (HED)

Ministry of Health & Family Welfare

105-106, Motiheel C/A, Dhaka-1000.

Memo No. HED/HFNSDP/GOB/HO Bed/Tender-204/2014/724

Dated. 04.12.2014

Amendment Notice

1. The Invitation for Tender (IFT) for construction of 10 bed Mother & Child Welfare Centre (MCWC) (Package No. WP-418/SDP (GOB)-HED), WP-460/SDP (GOB)-HED) & WP-585/SDP (GOB)-HED) circulated vide this office Memo No. HED/HFNSDP/GOB/HO Bed/Tender-204/2014/704, Dated: 19.10.2014 is hereby amended as under :


- IFT Sl. No. 17- Tender Last Selling Date and Time : 23.12.2014 instead of 09.12.2014 up to 16.00 Hrs.
- IFT Sl. No. 18- Tender Closing Date and Time : 24.12.2014 instead of 10.12.2014 up to 10.00 Hrs.
- IFT Sl. No. 19- Tender Opening Date and Time : 24.12.2014 instead of 10.12.2014 up to 16.00 Hrs.

2. IFT Sl. No. 28(1) construction of Italy Market (Char Dobesh) 10 bed Mother & Child Welfare Centres (Package No-WP-418/SDP(GOB)-HED) is hereby cancelled due to unavoidable circumstances.

3. All other terms and conditions will remain unchanged. This amendment notice will also form a part of the Tender documents and shall be binding upon the Tenderers.

Md. Belayer Hossain
Superintending Engineer (PSA)
Health Engineering Department

GD-1743/14 (5x4)

 নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর দপ্তর বিক্রয় ও বিতরণ বিভাগ-বাকলিয়া, বাংলাদেশ বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ড সৈয়দ শাহ রোড, বাকলিয়া, চট্টগ্রাম-৪০০০। ফোন নং-০৩১-৬১৭৮৫৫, ২৮৬২৮২১ ই-মেইল : bakaliapdb@yahoo.com Xenbak.ctg@bpd.gov.bd	
সূত্র নং-৪১৭	বিদ্যুৎ সশ্রী বাতি ব্যবহার করুন
তারিখ : ৪.১.১২-২০১৪	
১. মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	বিদ্যুৎ, জ্বালানী ও খনিজ সম্পদ মন্ত্রণালয়, বিদ্যুৎ বিভাগ।
২. এজেন্সী/প্রতিষ্ঠান	বাংলাদেশ বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ড।
৩. প্রকিউরিং এনটিটি/দপ্তরের নাম	নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর দপ্তর, বিবিবি-বাকলিয়া, বিউবো, চট্টগ্রাম।
৪. কাজ/সরবরাহের নাম	ক) বিক্রয় ও বিতরণ বিভাগ, বাকলিয়া, বিউবো, চট্টগ্রাম দপ্তরের সিকিউরিটি ব্যারাকের বাথ রুম মেরামত, সুয়ারেজ লাইন মেরামত এবং দরজা জানালা পরিবর্তন/মেরামতসহ আনুষঙ্গিক কাজ। খ) বিক্রয় ও বিতরণ বিভাগ, বাকলিয়া, বিউবো, চট্টগ্রাম দপ্তরের জন্য হলুদ রঙের আবাসিক ফাইল কভার সরবরাহ।
৫. সংগ্রহ পদ্ধতি	খোলা দরপত্র।
৬. কার্য সম্পাদনের সময়সীমা	৩০ (ত্রিশ) দিন।
৭. ঠিকাদারের যোগ্যতা	ক. বিউবো এ বি সি লাইসেন্সধারী বৈদ্যুতিক ঠিকাদার/পূর্ত মেরামত কাজের অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন ঠিকাদার। খ. প্রকৃত সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান।
৮. বাজেট ও তহবিলের প্রকৃতি	রাজস্ব বাজেট ২০১৪-২০১৫ অর্থ বৎসর।
৯. দরপত্র দলিলের ক্রয় মূল্য ও নিয়মাবলী	ক) উপ-পরিচালক (আহিদ), চবিস এর অনুকূলে অফেরতযোগ্য (ক ও খ) ১০০/- টাকার পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট দাখিলপূর্বক দরদাতার লেটার হেড প্যাডে আবেদন করিতে হইবে। খ) দরপত্র দলিল ক্রয়ের সময় ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, ভ্যাট রেজিস্ট্রেশন, আয়কর ইত্যাদি সনদপত্রসমূহের সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি দাখিল করিতে হইবে।
১০. জামানত (ফেরতযোগ্য)	ক) ২,০০০/- (দুই হাজার), খ) ২,৫০০/- (দুই হাজার পাঁচশত) টাকার পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট, উপ-পরিচালক (হিঃ) আহিদ, চবিস, বিউবো, চট্টগ্রামের অনুকূলে।
১১. দরপত্র দলিল বিক্রির দপ্তর	ক) প্রধান প্রকৌশলী, বিতরণ দক্ষিণাঞ্চল, বিউবো, চট্টগ্রাম এর দপ্তর। খ) তত্ত্বাবধায়ক প্রকৌশলীর দপ্তর, পওস, সার্কেল, চট্ট মেট্রো (পূর্ব), বিউবো, চট্টগ্রাম। গ) ম্যানেজার, অগ্রণী ব্যাংক, রিয়াজউদ্দীন বাজার শাখা, চট্টগ্রাম।
১২. দরপত্র দলিল গ্রহণকারীর দপ্তর	১১ নং-এ উল্লেখিত ক ও খ এবং নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর কক্ষ রক্ষিত টেবিলে বসে।
১৩. দরপত্র দলিল বিক্রির শেষ দিন ও সময়	২৩-১২-২০১৪ ইং অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত।
১৪. দরপত্র দলিল দাখিল ও খোলার শেষ দিন ও সময়	২৪-১২-২০১৪ ইং সময় দুপুর ১২.০০টা ও ১২.৩০টা সময় উপস্থিত দরদাতাদের সম্মুখে খোলা হইবে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন)।
১৫. বিশেষ শর্ত	দরপত্রের সকল শর্তাবলী সিডিউলে বর্ণিত আছে।
১৬. কার্য সম্পাদন জামানত	দেয় দরের ১০% Notification Award পত্র ইস্যুর ১৪ দিনের মধ্যে উপ-পরিচালক (হিসাব), আহিদ, চবিস, বিউবো, চট্টগ্রাম-এর বরাবরে ডিডি/পে-অর্ডারের মাধ্যমে পারফরমেন্স গ্যারান্টি হিসাবে প্রদান করিতে হইবে।
১৭. দরপত্র ক্রয়ের পূর্বানুমতির সময়	মূল সনদপত্র প্রদর্শন করিতে হইবে।
বিদ্যুৎ/জন-৫০১(২)/৭/১২/১৪	
জিডি-১৭৪২/১৪ (১'x৩)	
স্বাঃ নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী বিক্রয় ও বিতরণ বিভাগ-বাকলিয়া বিউবো, চট্টগ্রাম।	



Wreckage of one of the two busses that were in a head on collision at Dhaka-Rajshahi highway on Sunday.
Photo : Internet

ACC grills 4 ex-senior officials of Krishi Bank

DHAKA : The Anti Corruption Commission (ACC) on Sunday interrogated four former senior officials of Bangladesh Krishi Bank in connection with a Tk 152 crore loan scam, reports UNB.

ACC deputy director and inquiry officer Zulfiqar Ali questioned them for nearly three and half hours from 10 am at the ACC head office in the capital.

The Commission questioned former general manager Masud Ahmed Khan, former deputy general managers Golam Sarwar and Hafiz Uddin, and former customer relationship manager Jobair Hossain.

On Wednesday, the ACC sent notices to six officials of Krishi Bank asking them to appear at the ACC head office, but two bank officials did not appear at the ACC head office as scheduled today (Sunday) to face grilling, inquiry officer Zulfiqar Ali told UNB.

"Former managing director of Krishi Bank Mukther Hossain are now in Canada and former deputy managing director Zainal Abedin has sought time from the ACC," he added.

ACC sources said Wahidur Rahman, a businessman, earlier took a loan of Tk 152 crore from Banani corporate branch of Krishi Bank showing fake documents and he in collusion with the bank officials embezzled the amount.

JMB man held in Assam; confirms plot to kill Hasina

DHAKA : Assam police have arrested a key leader of the banned terror outfit Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen from a sleepy district of Nalbari and initial questioning of the man identified as Sahanur Alon alias 'doctor' revealed an elaborate plot to assassinate Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, reports UNB.

Sahanur, arrested on Friday night, was one of the most wanted terrorists in the Burdwan blast case, reports The Times of India on Sunday.

Quoting sources, the Indian daily said the Bangladesh mujahideen planned to kill Hasina and stage a coup to set up a 'Greater Islamic Bangladesh'.

The National Investigation Agency of India, which is probing the Burdwan terror case, is likely to send a report to their Bangladeshi counterparts after which it will be decided if they need to visit Kolkata again to question Sahanur, head of the outfit in Assam.

NIA had announced a reward of Rs 5 lakh for

information leading to Sahanur's capture. The 31-year-old's arrest is the biggest breakthrough since Bengal module chief Sajid was held on November 8.

Known as 'daktar' in the outfit and to intelligence agencies, Sahanur passed himself off as a dentist or a homoeopath by day and handled JMB's finances and arms shipments by night, said security sources.

Assam DGP Khagen Sarma said Sahanur was not a combatant versed in use of firearms. "But he is more dangerous as he was involved in motivational training to recruit youths," Sarma said. Sahanur has revealed that several JMB leaders from Bangladesh visited a madrasah in Larkuchi in Nalbari - just as they did in Simulia and Mukimnagar madrasahs in Bengal - to build a wider base among Assamese-speaking Bangladeshi immigrants.

According to NIA officers, Sahanur might be flown to Kolkata for interrogation. "Three key JMB operatives -

Khaled, Hakim and Sajid - are in our custody and we want to interrogate Sahanur face-to-face with them.

Khaled being the Myanmar pointsman and Sajid one of the main operatives in Bengal, there is a very strong possibility that they were interconnected and shared vital information, an officer said.

Security agencies of both countries hope to get clues from Sahanur to track down JMB financiers. According to NIA officers, funds for JMB used to reach Assam via Myanmar and North-East through hawala channels.

"After the money reached Sahanur, he used to send it to different places according to instructions," an NIA officer said. Investigators had got some insight into JMB's money trail after Suzena's interrogation.

"We're trying to find out if there was any direct funding by any person in Bengal or other parts of India. Sahanur can also tell us if money reached Bangladesh through him," the officer added.

Rajshahi bus plunge kills 3 students

RAJSHAHI : Three students were killed and 20 others injured when a bus plunged into a roadside ditch after a head-on collision with another bus on Dhaka-Rajshahi highway in front of Katakhal Jute Mill in the suburb area of the city on Sunday, reports UNB.

The deceased were identified as Mahmuda Akter Tania, a 1st year student of Social Working department of Rajshahi College, Shima and Sharmin, 2nd year students of History and Management Department of the college.

Mostafizur Rahman, in-charge of Rajshahi Medical College Hospital police camp, said the accident took place in the area a round 12:45 pm when a Puthia Baneshwar-bound student bus fell into a roadside ditch after a collision with another Rajshahi-bound passenger bus from Sirajganj, leaving three students dead on the spot and 20 others injured.

On information, two fire fighting units rushed to the spot and salvaged the bus.

Among the injured, 12 were rushed to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital.

BD, Qatar want to deepen ties

DHAKA : Bangladesh and Qatar on Sunday agreed to formulate a draft memorandum to expedite communication between the two governments and its people through exchanging information and news, reports UNB.

The issue was discussed when Qatar Ambassador in Dhaka Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Mohammed Almana met Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu at the latter's Secretariat office.

The envoy sought Bangladesh's support and cooperation in hosting World Cup Football in 2022.

In response, the Information Minister assured him of extending all required support, even with skilled manpower, to make the event a success.

Inu thanked the Qatar government for ensuring a smooth and safe living for Bangladeshis living in Qatar.

EU to provide addl aid to flood-hit people in north-west Bangladesh

DHAKA : The European Commission has decided to provide an additional 1 million Euro, equivalent to over Tk 9.5 crore to bring humanitarian assistance to the most vulnerable families affected by the extensive flooding in north-western Bangladesh, reports UNB.

This aid comes in addition to initial funding provided in the immediate aftermath of the floods, bringing the European Union's total humanitarian assistance to 2.638 million, equivalent to over Tk 25 crore, according to an official release. Overall, the European funding will benefit over 215,000 people living in the districts of Kurigram, Gaibandha, Bogra, Siraganj and Jamalpur. "The floods have seriously impacted the food security situation in these districts, as many crops have been destroyed and the next harvest will not take place before several months," said Pierre Mayaudon, the Ambassador of the European Union to Bangladesh.

He said the situation is such that many people are now deprived from adequate meals. "Our efforts will, therefore, focus on making sure these most vulnerable families are able to better feed themselves, and can start

restoring their livelihoods."

The additional EU funds will benefit an extra 14,600 households, providing them with cash grants that will enable them to buy both food and assets for income-generating activities.

Some 2,000 families whose houses have been particularly badly damaged will also receive extra funds for shelter repair and buying of household items.

The provision of cash grants enables families to make their own choices and determine their own priorities. The funds will be delivered through mobile transfer technology, a very flexible system, which has proved to be highly appreciated by affected communities in the past.

The funds will be channeled through the well-established DESHARRI consortium of INGOS, which comprises of Action Contre la Faim (ACF), Christian Aid, Danish Church Aid, Muslim Aid, and Save the Children International.

Both this project and the previous ones implemented in response to the floods in the North-West are funded by the Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department of the European Commission (ECHO).

BNP fully dependent on influence of foreign countries : Quamrul

DHAKA : Food Minister Advocate Quamrul Islam yesterday said the BNP has now turned into a party fully dependent on the influence of foreign countries. And at the same time they lost faith on the people of the country, he added.

"They (BNP's leaders) are dreaming to assume power by realizing the demand of caretaker government," he added, reports BSS.

The minister, also joint secretary of Dhaka City Awami League, was addressing a memorial discussion of Artist Quayyum

Chodhury and renowned journalist and former chief editor and managing director of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) Zaglul Ahmed Chowdhury.

The discussion was organised by Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote (BSJ) at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy auditorium.

As the chief guest, Quamrul said, "There is no scope to reinstate illogical caretaker government system in the country."

Chaired by vice president of BSJ and renowned actor Syed Hasan Imam, the

memorial discussion was also addressed, among others, by vice president of the organisation and experienced actor ATM Shamsuzzaman, Pijus Badapadhyaya, Dhaka City Awami League organizing secretary Shahe Alam Murad and assistant secretary of Awami League sub-committee and director of Agrani Bank Ltd Advocate Balam Poddar.

"The Awami League (AL) is a party of common people, so it never fears of joining the elections", the minister said.



City streets are being painted and cleaned for the upcoming Independence Day on 16th December.
Photo Credit : Banglar Chokh

Bagerhat war widow testifies against 'Kashai' Siraj

DHAKA : A female prosecution witness (PW), also a war widow, on Sunday accused Sirajul Huq of killing her husband and two other close relatives at Ranjitpur, Bagerhat during the Liberation War on May 13, 1971, reports UNB.

"One day in the Bangla month of Baishakh, a group of Razakar, led by Siraj Master had swooped on my house and gunned down my husband Paritosh Chakrabarty and father in-law Nishikanta Chakrabarty," recalled Kamala Rani Chakrabarty, now 60.

She was testifying against the accused, deputy Razakar commander of Bagerhat in 1971, as PW-3 before the International Crimes Tribunal-1.

The PW also said Siraj Master alias Kashai Seraj had also hacked to death her husband's grandfather Binod Chakrabarty.

During the dreadful attack, the perpetrators had also committed plundering their house before burning it down, said Kamala, an eyewitness. "I had seen the awful incidents hiding in a nearby bush taking my two-month-old daughter in my lap that peeved others as my daughter cried out from the refuge," said Kamala. "Considering others safety, I had to push finally against my will a piece of cloth into my daughter's mouth to gag her voice," she said sobbing.

Before concluding her deposition, the PW-3 identified accused Siraj among the three other accused in the dock.

Meanwhile, during the cross-examinations by the state-appointed defence counsel, MA Hasan, the PW said she did not file any case with the police station after Bangladesh's liberation in connection with the killing, including her husband, and loot and torching her house as she had no guardian at that time.

Denying a defence suggestion, PW Kamala Rani said, "It's not true that I gave the evidence against Siraj Master as tutored by the prosecution." Earlier, the state defence counsel had cross-examined PW-2 Sailendranath Das. On November 5, the tribunal indicted detained accused Sirajul Huq alias Kashai Seraj, 72, Akram Hossain Khan, 61, and A Latif Talukder, 68, of Bagerhat for their involvement in crimes against humanity during the Liberation War.

The three commanders of Razakar, an auxiliary force of the Pakistan occupation army, face seven counts of charges of crimes against humanity that include killing, genocide, loot, arson, rape, abduction, torture, and conversion of Hindus to Muslim under duress during the Liberation War in Bagerhat district.

ASP M Helal Uddin, investigation officer of the case, listed 65 prosecution witnesses (PWs) to testify before the tribunal against the accused to prove the war crimes charges.

Woman survived a 10,000 meter fall with minimal injuries

INTERESTING NEWS

Her name is Vesna Vulovic? (now 64 year old). She is a Serbian woman who used to be a flight attendant.

In 1972, when she was 22 years old, she was working on a flight that was over the (now) Czech Republic when a bomb explosion in the baggage compartment caused the plane to break apart. The bomb was claimed by a Croat that was member of a nationalist group, but no official confirmation has been made.

Vesna was the only survivor. She fell freely, without a parachute, from

a height over 10,000 meters (33,000 feet). The impact got her many severe injuries (fractured skull and vertebrae, as well as broken legs). She also became partially paralyzed, and went into a coma for almost a month. She fully recovered from these injuries though, and switched to a desk job with the same airline. Unlike many others who have been through such experiences, she hasn't developed a fear of flying, and has no issues watching movies with plane crashes.

In 1985, she was awarded the Guinness Record title for the highest fall without a parachute.



Proposal for orbital slot lease for Bangabandhu Satellite approved

DHAKA : The government on Sunday approved a proposal for orbital slot lease (Right to Use) from Russia on direct procurement method (DPM) to launch the country's first ever satellite- Bangabandhu Satellite, reports BSS.

The approval was given at the meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), held at the Cabinet Division, with Finance Minister A M A Muhith in the chair.

Following the meeting, Mostafizur Rahman, Joint Secretary of Cabinet Division, briefed the reporters about the outcome saying that the CCEA approved the proposal in principal to take lease the orbital slot from the Intersputnik of Russia in the 119.10 east longitude following DPM (Procure from only source) to launch the Satellite Bangabandhu, which is being implemented by Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission."

"In the Development Project Proforma (DPP), Taka 218.96 crore (US\$ 28 million) has been allocated from the national exchequer

to get the orbital slots from the Intersputnik," Mostafizur said.

The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) on September 16 this year approved "Bangabandhu Satellite Launching Project" involving Taka 2967.95 crore.

B a n g l a d e s h T e l e c o m m u n i c a t i o n Regulatory Commission (BTRC) will implement the project by June, 2017. Once the satellite is launched, it would save around Taka 110 to Taka 120 crore annually in foreign currency as broadcasting expenditure.

Apart from the satellite, two earth stations would be set up at Joydevpur in Gazipur and Betunia in Rangamati under the same project.

American firm "Space Partnership International (SPI)" will help Bangladesh in launching the satellite. Bangladesh spends around US\$ 14 million annually on satellite rents for running television channels, telephones and radio connectivity.

The BTRC will have orbital slot on 119 degree east from Intersputnik with a single lifetime of 15 years.